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7 September 1982

SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

No. 1187

CONTENTS

KAMPUCHEA

Briefs

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Rubber Delegation | 1 |
|-------------------|---|

LAOS

Briefs

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Message to MPR on Flood Damage | 2 |
| Photo Exhibition on Cuban Revolution | 2 |
| Photo Exhibition on Afghanistan | 2 |
| Refugees From Thailand | 2 |

PAKISTAN

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Zia Says No Bilateral Dispute With USSR (BUSINESS RECORDER, 18 Aug 82) | 4 |
| Investment Advisory Centers in Gulf Being Planned (BUSINESS RECORDER, 19 Aug 82) | 5 |
| Minister's Plea To Form Anti-Corruption Bodies (BUSINESS RECORDER, 19 Aug 82) | 6 |
| Corruption in Bureaucracy Attacked (VIEWPOINT, 22 Jul 82) | 7 |
| Refugee Situation Reviewed (KHYBER MAIL, 13 Aug 82) | 9 |
| Tarbela To Generate 4000 Megawatts in 1990's (BUSINESS RECORDER, 19 Aug 82) | 10 |
| 5-Year Rise in Sind Agricultural Production Reported (BUSINESS RECORDER, 19 Aug 82) | 11 |
| Sind Refused Rise in Sugar Quota (BUSINESS RECORDER, 18 Aug 82) | 12 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Minister on Wheat Production Potential (BUSINESS RECORDER, 18 Aug 82) | 13 |
| Cabinet Approves Private Units for Polyester, Cement (BUSINESS RECORDER, 18 Aug 82) | 16 |
| Plight of Lahore's Unregistered Laborers Discussed (Mahmood Zaman; VIEWPOINT, 22 Jul 82) | 17 |
| Industrial Progress in NWFP Reviewed (Omer Amer; KHYBER MAIL, 14 Aug 82) | 22 |
| Briefs | |
| Muslim League Leaders Detained | 26 |
| Ambassador to United Nations | 26 |
| Local Body Elections | 26 |
| Northern Areas Development Expenditure | 27 |
| Booklet Forfeited | 27 |
| Human Rights Campaigners Travel | 27 |
| Bar Council Restrictions Criticized | 27 |
| Poet Barred From Sind | 28 |
| Exports to Romania | 28 |
| Ghaffar Khan Wants Talks | 28 |
| Civil Aviation Authority | 28 |
| Tarbela Transmission Work Progressing | 29 |
| Police Denies Ban | 29 |
| Course for Afghan Teachers | 29 |

PHILIPPINES

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Government Interest, Debt Repayment Reported (George T. Nervez; PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS, 4 Aug 82) | 30 |
| Manipur Terrorists Warn Officials (THE STATESMAN, 31 Jul 82) | 31 |
| Labor Layoffs for 1981 Reported (Chito Parazo; BULLETIN TODAY, 4 Aug 82) | 32 |
| Cash Deficit Reported (BULLETIN TODAY, 3 Aug 82) | 33 |
| General Vows To End Military Abuses (BULLETIN TODAY, 3 Aug 82) | 34 |
| Editorial Commends Clergy-Military Agreement (BULLETIN TODAY, 4 Aug 82) | 35 |
| Manipur Insurgency Activities Reported (S. Guru Dev; THE STATESMAN, 12 Aug 82) | 37 |
| PM Rejects Coco-Diesel Program (BULLETIN TODAY, 3 Aug 82) | 39 |

THAILAND

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Government Oil Fund Debt Rises to 4 Billion Baht (BANGKOK POST, 25 Aug 82) | 40 |
| USSR Agrees to Barter Fertilizer for Corn (BANGKOK POST, 30 Jul 82) | 41 |
| 'POST' Editor Comments on Thach Visit (BANGKOK POST, 2 Aug 82) | 43 |
| Malaysian Group Calls on Thai Muslim for Funds (NATION REVIEW, 12 Aug 82) | 46 |
| Han on Muslim Separatist Bases in Malaysia (NATION REVIEW, 31 Jul 82) | 47 |
| Country To Set Up Force of Reservists (Sonchai Nokeplub; BANGKOK POST, 21 Aug 82) | 48 |
| Moulinaka Leaders Say SRV Troops Step Up Actions (Jacques Bekaert; NATION REVIEW, 25 Aug 82) | 50 |
| Police Warn of Removal of BCP, SUA by Force (BANGKOK POST, 7 Aug 82) | 52 |
| Han on Crushing of CPM 'Liberation Army' (BANGKOK POST, 4 Aug 82) | 54 |
| Insurgents Raid Construction Camp, Villages (NATION REVIEW, 18 Aug 82) | 56 |
| Khmer Refugees Want To Return to Sihanouk Fold (BANGKOK POST, 25 Aug 82) | 58 |
| Warrants Issued for 1,600 Vietnamese Refugees (NATION REVIEW, 18 Aug 82) | 61 |
| Police Arrest Member of Ananda Marga in Bangkok (BANGKOK POST, 8 Aug 82) | 62 |
| Briefs | |
| Hilltribe Group Surrenders | 64 |
| Border Police Arrest Wa 'Rebels' | 64 |
| More Wa Guerrillas Arrested | 64 |
| New SRV Envoy Expected | 65 |
| Jan-Jun Rice Exports | 65 |
| Jan-Mar Oil Imports | 65 |
| Military Talks With U.S. | 66 |
| Illegal Immigrants | 66 |
| Aid To Drought-Hit Areas | 66 |
| Improved Situation in South | 66 |
| Diplomatic Ties With Panama | 67 |

BRIEFS

RUBBER DELEGATION--Hanoi, 2 Aug, VNA--Officials of the rubber production branch of Vietnam and Kampuchea met in Ho Chi Minh City on July 31 to exchange their professional experiences. Present at the meeting, on the Vietnamese side, were Do Van Nguyen, director of the Vietnam Rubber Agency, and experts who are helping Kampuchea in rubber production. The Kampuchean side included Nut Thon, director; Nham Henh, vice-director; and other officials of the Kampuchean Rubber Agency; and representatives of the Kampuchean Planning Ministry. The two delegations informed each other of the rubber production of their own country, and discussed measures to continue promoting their cooperation for higher efficiency in rubber production. In the immediate future, Vietnam will help Kampuchea restore and develop production and train managerial and technical cadres. On this occasion, the Kampuchean delegation visited a number of Vietnamese rubber production establishments. [Text] [OW071921 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 2 Aug 82]

CSO: 4220/305

BRIEFS

MESSAGE TO MPR ON FLOOD DAMAGE--Vientiane, 13 Aug (KPL)--Kaysone Phomvihane and Souphanouvong, respectively general secretary of the LPRP CC, premier, and president of the republic and of the Supreme People's Assembly, sent a joint telegram of sympathy to the Mongolian leaders. The telegram, addressed to Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, general secretary of the MPRP and chairman of the Great People's Hural, and [to the] chairman of the Ministers Council of the Mongolian People's Republic, expressed deep sympathy to the Mongolian leaders and, through them, to the people of the northern part of Ulaanbaatar who were recently affected by flood. The message further says: We are convinced that the heroic fraternal Mongolian people under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party will overcome the bad consequences of this disaster and will be able to restore normal life soon. [Text] [BK131016 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 13 Aug 82]

PHOTO EXHIBITION ON CUBAN REVOLUTION--Vientiane, 26 Jul (KPL)--A photo exhibition to mark the 29th anniversary of the attack of Moncada by the Cuban revolutionary force was held here on July 23. Among those present at the opening of the exhibition jointly organised by the Laos-Cuba Friendship Association and the Cuban Embassy were Khamsouk Keola; vice-president and secretary general of the People's Supreme Assembly; Kambou Sounisai, head of the National Committee for Labour and Wages and president of the said association. [BK300603 Vientiane KPL in English 1910 GMT 25 Jul 82]

PHOTO EXHIBITION ON AFGHANISTAN--Vientiane, 6 Aug (OANA/KPL)--The Ministry of Propaganda, Information, Culture and Tourism, on August 4, opened a photo exhibition here on the present situation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Present on this occasion were Khamsouk Keola, vice-president and secretary general of the People's Supreme Assembly [PSA]; Sisana Sisan, member of the party CC, minister of propaganda, information, culture and tourism; and other members of the PSA, the Council of Ministers, and mass organizations. Diplomatic envoys to Laos were also on hand. [Excerpt] [BK071145 Vientiane KPL in English 0854 GMT 6 Aug 82]

REFUGEES FROM THAILAND--Vientiane, 7 Aug (OANA/KPL)--A total of 103 misled Lao refugees, on August 5, volunteered to return home. The refugees were warmly welcomed at Tha Deua ferry in the Hatsaifong District of Vientiane Municipality by Lao and Thai provincial administrative authorities; and UNHCR

representatives to both countries were also on hand at the welcoming ceremony. With this last batch of returned refugees, the UNHCR has so far sponsored the program 19 times. [Text] [BK071027 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 7 Aug 82] --Vientiane, 19 Aug (OANA/KPL)--Fifteen misguided refugee families comprising fifty-four persons recently returned to their hometown in southern Champassak Province. A warm welcoming ceremony was organised at Songmek, a border town facing Thai Ubon Province. The ceremony was witnessed by Lao and Thai [officials] along with representatives of UNHCR. So far, 337 Lao refugees have returned to Champassak Province from Thai refugee camps. [Text] [BK191217 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 19 Aug 82]

CSO: 4200/305

ZIA SAYS NO BILATERAL DISPUTE WITH USSR

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Aug. 17: President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has said he was keen to develop further the bilateral relations with the Soviet Union in all fields as this country was one of our great neighbours.

In a question answer interview given to the weekly 'Hurmat' Rawalpindi, President Zia-ul-Haq outlined the foreign policy of Pakistan and said that one of the basic objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy was to grow friendly ties with the Soviet Union like other neighbourly countries. The relations between the two countries, the President added, were based on the fact that "we have no bilateral dispute, with the Soviet Union".

The President said it was true that there were some differences on principle with the Soviet Union on the Afghanistan issue. The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, he said had not only created a number of problems for Afghanistan but it had also resulted in an enormous burden of more than 2.7 million Afghan refugees on Pakistan.

The President said that Pakistan has been striving hard to solve the Afghan problem through peaceful means. For this purpose Pakistan played a positive and constructive role at the recent talks in Geneva. The President expressed the hope that this process

would soon provide a satisfactory and complete solution of the Afghan problem with the help of the United Nations.

Explaining the existing relations between Pakistan and Soviet Union, the President said that co-operation already existed in the economic field between the two countries. Concrete efforts were under way in various other fields at different levels. The Pakistan Steel and the electric power project at Guddu reflect the fruitful economic cooperation between Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

He emphasised that Pakistan was very keen to develop further the economic relations with the Soviet Union and would continue to find ways and means to achieve this object to the maximum level.

He said the cultural exchanges between the two countries were increasing day by day.

In his detailed interview, the President replied questions on the circumstances which led to his assumption of power in 1977, the achievements of his government during the last five years, the machinations of the anti-state elements to disrupt national unity and the government's action to foil them, the process of Islamisation in the country, the law and order situation and the genesis of the foreign policy now being followed by his government.—APP.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY CENTERS IN GULF BEING PLANNED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug. 18: The Federal Government is actively considering a proposal to set up investment advisory centres in OPEC countries and other countries where Pakistanis are in large concentration it is learnt here.

The major objective of these centres is to provide guidance and information to the Pakistanis working abroad about the investment opportunities in Pakistan and persuade them to invest a part of their remittances in the projects of national development.

The proposed centres would be supplied with investment literature on feasible industries.

At present there are 1.5 million Pakistanis working in various parts of the world. Of them about 84 per cent are production workers with 43 per cent unskilled and 41 per cent skilled labour.

Provincial break-up of overseas workers is: Punjab 70.4 per cent, Sind, 14 per cent and NWFP and Baluchistan 11.70 and 3.9 per

cent respectively.

According to official estimates, the potential for continuing immigration is substantial and demand for labour from major labour importing countries has been projected to grow at a rate of 3.7 per cent per annum under a low growth assumption and at 4.5 per cent under a high growth assumption till the year 1995.

According to an official research a migrant consumes 62 per cent of his total income for personal requirements, invests 23 per cent in real estate and devotes the remaining 16 per cent to other forms of investment and saving in agriculture and industries sector.

With the setting up of the proposed investment advisory centres the government hopes that the investment by overseas Pakistanis in the country will get a boost and a major part of their remittances will be diverted to the projects of the national development.—PPI

MINISTER'S PLEA TO FORM ANTI-CORRUPTION BODIES

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Aug. 18 Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting today called for mobilising collective efforts to stamp out corruption from society.

"The bribery has permeated the society like a cancer," the Information Minister said, "an organised movement should be launched against this social evil lest it is too late".

He was speaking at the certificate award giving ceremony had under the district council in connection with the Independence Day at Jinnah Hall here.

Raja Zafarul Haq said President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq had recently pinpointed bribery as the ugly social evil which is corroding the entire fabric of society. "The government is determined to wield the authority of civil as well as martial law to eradicate it," he said.

He called upon the people especially the councilors, lawyers and intelligentsia to rise to the occasion and wage a crusade to eliminate this menace. He asked them to form vigilance committees to combat this social evil and also motivate and educate the peoples to launch a vigorous and relentless campaign against corrupt elements. These people who will be on the vanguard of this movement will be true benefactors of the nation, the minister added.

He expressed his happiness over the massive country-wide

celebration in connection with the Independence Day which demonstrated the unity and integrity among the entire nation.

He said that Pakistan was providing shelter to over 27 lakh Afghan refugees purely on Islamic and humanitarian grounds despite international pressures.

Similarly, Pakistan always supported the just cause of the Palestinian brothers who are subjected to naked aggression by the Zionists.

He said taking into consideration the situation prevailing around Pakistan, the government was taking necessary measures for the defence of the country's frontier according to the available resources.

ECONOMIC CONDITION

Referring to the economic conditions of the country, the minister said by the grace of Almighty Allah there has been lot of increase in the production of wheat, sugar and vegetable etc. Besides, the government had constructed large number of roads, hospitals and schools with the collaboration of the elected members in all the four provinces and particularly in Baluchistan.

He said it was also gratifying to note that the minorities in Pakistan enjoyed equal rights and their honour and property is safe. There has been no communal disturbances as was happening in many other countries including our immediate neighbour. —APP/PPH

CORRUPTION IN BUREAUCRACY ATTACKED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Jul 82 pp 7, 8

[Text]

FROM time to time, public servants are asked to file declarations about their assets to enable the Government to determine whether they are living beyond their means or not.

Successive governments have played this 'goshwaras' game when they begin to receive complaints that their functionaries are living it up like they owned the joint. 'Goshwaras' (declarations) are duly submitted, editorials are duly written and everything is duly filed to gather dust in ill-kept archives. Once a decade people are made to believe that now the corrupt will meet their dessert and now their files will begin to move. When the noise has subsided, the corrupt resume their corrupt ways and the people have to pay that much more for making the wheels of bureaucracy move. If it took two rupees to make a file move from one table to another in the same office in 1952, now it takes two grand. The fall in the value of the rupee has been as dramatic as the decline in moral standards in our public offices.

President Ayub Khan threw out 70-plus senior bureaucrats when he started. Gen. Yahya Khan gave the boot to 303. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto sacked 1,300. These dismissals took place not on the basis of any 'goshwaras' but were quite arbitrary. We have never heard of a bureaucrat ever having been found to be living beyond his means on the basis of the declaration of his assets filed by himself. It would be ridiculous to expect so

Sufficient proof

The question is: who scrutinises these 'goshwaras'? The bureaucrats themselves. And there is, has always been, honour among thieves. How much does a Grade-23 officer make? You have just to visit his place to see that he is living beyond his means. 'Goshwaras' are just not needed. Physical evidence is proof enough. If you are living within your means, you cannot buy a bicycle, to say nothing of refrigerators, VCRs, colour TVs, carpets and cars and things. That is just not on — not even at four thousand rupees a month. And yet even customs inspectors have all the good things and to spare.

This will go on for as long as we ask bureaucrats to sit in judgment on fellow-bureaucrats. They will continue to protect each other. They will continue to set standards of ostentatious living for others to follow. They will get all the land for house-building and for setting up shops. They will get all agricultural land that remains. For them are co-purchase loans and house-building credit and a 10-kanal house in the GOR. All the rest houses are for them and so are all reservations, allocations and quotas. Left-overs are for relatives and friends and fellow-influentials.

One day a friend suggested that the Bar Association, especially the Income Tax Bar Association be asked to look into the conduct of our bureaucrats. Maybe, the fellow has a point but since the bureaucracy is the only

organised political party that has not been outlawed any attempt by the Bar Councils/Associations to look into affairs bureaucratic might be construed as taking a direct part in politics and thus come within the mischief of the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance, 1982.

For no good reason at all, one is reminded here of a passage read just this morning in M. Iqbal's 'The Story of Muslim Politics'. Quoting from Shibli Numani's 'Al Farooq', Vol. II, p. 35, it says:

"All officers were required to come to Makkah on the occasion of the Hajj, when people from all over the Islamic world gathered in the Holy City. In public assembly the Caliph invited all who had any grievance against any officer to present the same. Even minor complaints were made on the

occasion. Inquiries were made and grievances redressed. Every officer was required to make a promise that he would not ride a Turkish horse, nor wear fine clothes nor eat sifted flour, nor keep a porter at his door and would ever keep his door open for those who had need of him. The terms were often entered in the letter of appointment and announced in public assembly".

The Turkish horse must in those days have been the equivalent of our own airconditioned Mazda. If a letter of appointment today stipulates that an officer will never ever buy a Toyota or Mazda, very soon there will be no takers and we will have to import bureaucrats from India in which country, one is told, the species abounds and at much cheaper rates.

REFUGEE SITUATION REVIEWED

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 13 Aug 82 p 8

[Text] A high-level meeting here Thursday reviewed the overall situation regarding the refugees administration in the NWFP.

The Commissioner for Afghan Refugees for the NWFP, Mr Abdullah presided over the meeting which also took some important decisions.

The meeting was informed about the provision of drinking water, kerosene oil, distribution of relief assistance, disbursement of maintenance allowance and the provision of certain other facilities to the Afghan refugees in tentage villages.

The Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the performance of district and agency administrations throughout the NWFP and urged them to further streamline their work.

He stressed upon the administrators to vigorously implement the decisions already taken.

He said that by working in this organisation they were not only accountable to the government and people of Pakistan but also to God Almighty Allah, donor countries and international community at large.

The commissioner underlined the need for quick distribution of relief goods and disbursement of maintenance allowance to the refugees.

He warned that there was no room for dishonest workers in this organisation and such people would be sternly dealt with.

The meeting, which lasted for about four hours, was attended by the three Additional Commissioners of Afghan Refugees and all district and agency administrators working in the NWFP.

CSO: 4220/296

TARBELA TO GENERATE 4000 MEGAWATTS in 1990'S

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug. 18: Tarbela will start generating more than four thousand megawatt of electricity power in 1990s with the commissioning of six turbines of 175 megawatt and four turbines of 400 megawatt each. Maj-Gen. Ghulam Safdar Butt, Chairman, WAPDA, told a press conference here today.

He said that for the current year WAPDA had been allocated Rs. eight billions of which Rs. one billion was for the maintenance and modification of Tarbela Dam.

Giving break-up of the budget, he said that Rs. 4830 million had been allocated for power and Rs. 2110 million for water. He added that budget for power was meant for the schemes for generation, transmission and grid stations and distribution.

CONSERVATION DRIVE

He said WAPDA is launching a campaign for the conservation of energy by the existing consumers so that more connections could be given to the deserving ones.

In this respect WAPDA chairman sought press and media could co-operation to educate the people.

He said that WAPDA will consider closing down power supply to the markets, before Maghrib prayers.

He said difficult power situation was faced in the summer and winter when level went down resulting in lesser power generation. That period was not more

than six months in a year". In both the seasons WAPDA had to resort to shut downs to meet the demand.

Nearly one third of the total power generated by WAPDA is either stolen or wasted in generation or transmission depriving the Authority of billions of rupees every year, chairman WAPDA said.

He said the Authority had minimised these losses to some extent and that 33.72 per cent loss in 1972-73 had been brought down to 3.03 per cent at the end of June this year.

The Chairman, WAPDA said that four units of 175 megawatts capacity each on Tunnel No. 2 of the Tarbela Dam would be installed at a cost of approximately Rs. 2870 million. The units No. 5 to 8 were expected to be commissioned during the current financial year.

He said that after a review of the potential of the Tarbela Hydel Power Station, a decision was taken to instal two more units on Tunnel No. 2. The scheme was scheduled to be completed by July 1985.

He said that after the consideration of water availability, head losses water hammer, etc. the WAPDA consultants had recommended installation of four units of 406 mw each on Tunnel No. 3. This project would require Rs. 10000 million including Rs. 5000 million as foreign exchange component.—APP/PPI.

5-YEAR RISE IN SIND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REPORTED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

Continuous increase has been registered in the production of wheat, rice, cotton and sugarcane in the province of Sind during last five years.

Statistically, wheat production has increased by 44.6 per cent, rice by 20.45 per cent, cotton by 28.4 per cent and sugarcane by 64.32 per cent in the year 1981-82 as compared to the production achieved in 1977-78.

The breakthrough in agriculture production has been made possible by advanced planning, keeping in view the guidelines given by the federal government and working out crop inputs requirements in advance and chalking out action plans upto the level of union council to achieve production targets by the Sind Agriculture Department.

Other factor responsible for encouraging results include timely announcement of support prices, greater fertilizer off take, improved agricultural practices, use of increased quantities of quality seed and timely sowing of crops.

With excellent performance in the field of agriculture, Sind contributes 18 per cent of wheat production, 35 per cent of cotton, 47 per cent of rice and about 50 per cent of sugar, cotton and rice not only full meet the requirements of province but also provide a good export potential.

WHEAT: In the year 1977-78, wheat production in the province stood at 14.27 lakh M. tons which has risen to 20.64 lakh M. tons in 1981-82 showing an increase of 44.6 per cent. This was inter alia due to improvement in yield per acre which was 17 maunds per acre in 1977-78 and increased to 21.6 maunds in 1981-82 registering 20 per cent increase. Self-sufficiency in wheat was attained in the year 1979-80.

The old variety Pak-70 which was susceptible to rust has been replaced. A new high yielding regular variety viz: ZA-77 has been evolved by Agriculture Research Institute, Tandojam. Its certified seed of 25,000 maunds is planned to be distributed to the farmers in Rabi 1982-83.

RICE: The total production of rice in the province was 13.15 lakh M. Tons in year 1977-78 while in 1981-82 it increased to 15.84 lakh M. tons showing 20.45 per cent increase like wheat, there has been persistent increase in per acre yield in case of rice. It was 19.07 maunds in 1977-78 and has improved to 23.61 maunds last year (1981-82) thus showing 23.8 per cent increase.

Our Rice Research Institute at Dokri has evolved a new scented variety (Sind basmati), it will be released for general cultivation shortly.

COTTON: Production of cotton has also increased significantly. In the year 1977-78 it was 12.08 lakh bales while last year it has risen to 15.51 lakh bales showing 28.4 per cent increase which is a new record of the province. Per acre yield of cotton has improved from 12 maunds to 13.46 in last 5 years (an increase of 12.1 per cent).

SUGARCANE: Remarkable progress has been made in case of sugarcane production. Five years back (i.e. in 1977-78) the cane production was 42.60 lakh M. tons. This has gone up to an all time record of over 70 lakh M. tons during the current year (1981-82). Cane yield per acre has also improved from 384 maunds (in 1977-78) to 465 maunds this year (an increase of 21.1 per cent).

Sugar production has been placed at 5.86 lakh M. tons this year (against 3.36 lakh M. tons last year) which too has surpassed all previous record.—APP.

SIND REFUSED RISE IN SUGAR QUOTA

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

The Federal Government has turned down the suggestion of the Sind Government, to increase the sugar quota by 20 per cent, it is reliably learnt.

The Provincial Government had approached the Federal Government to restore the 20 per cent cut in quota which was made in 1979-80 owing to sharp sugar shortage in the country, particularly in Punjab.

The Sind Government's proposal had in this regard cited the record sugar production in the province this year, estimated to be about six lakh tons.

According to informed circles, Sind has a net surplus of about 1.80 lakh tons which far exceeds the present storage capacity in the province. So the Provincial Food Department had some time back requested the Federal Government to extend necessary help in hiring more godowns to store the surplus sugar. The federal response is still awaited.

It is said that a huge amount will be needed by the Sind Gov-

ernment to arrange storage of about 1.80 lakh tons of sugar. According to informed circles, generally the Government pays at the rate of Re. one per sq. ft. daily for the godowns.

Government's efforts to export the surplus sugar could not succeed so far due to low international prices and high cost of production in the country.

In view of the serious storage problem and the negative response from the Federal Government, the Provincial Food Department has now approached the Governor to restore the full sugar quota in the province.

In case approval is accorded by the Governor, sugar quota for the urban areas, will be increased to one kilogram per person per month. Similarly, sugar quota for the rural areas of the province, excepting Karachi rural area, will increase to 500 grams per person per month. For the rural areas of Karachi it would be 600 grams per person per month.

It may be mentioned that at present sugar quota for the urban areas is 800 grams per person per month of 480 grams for the rural areas of Karachi and 400 grams for other rural areas.

MINISTER ON WHEAT PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 17--Minister for Food and Agriculture Vice Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua today urged the agricultural scientists, extension workers and growers to raise wheat production and make Pakistan an exporter of the commodity.

The minister was delivering his inaugural address at the 3-day national wheat research and production seminar sponsored by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) at the Planning Division Auditorium. Over 125 delegates are participating in the programme spread over six sessions.

The major topics of discussion at the seminar include breeding and genetics, agronomy, fertiliser and soil chemistry, pathology and weed control and wheat mechanisation.

Recommendations will be made to the government following the panel discussions at the end of the seminar.

Janjua thought the country has the potential to become a wheat exporter. He based his optimism on this score on the observations of wheat scientists.

Several of the reputed scientists feel Pakistan has the potential to triple its wheat production.

According to their projections the attainable target could be 33 million tonnes, up from the present production of 11 million tonnes.

Janjua said despite the damage caused to wheat crop by the untimely rains in late spring this year it is for the first time that Pakistan would export some quantity of wheat, thereby joining the ranks of the wheat exporting countries.

Janjua maintained that the real goal of production was still distant but it would be the effort of the government to achieve it within the shortest possible time. Over the past three years the average increase in the wheat production had been "very much encouraging" and if this performance was maintained it will be a great achievement and will provide a sound economic basis to the country's economy," he thought. He said in this campaign for

raising production an active cooperation of agricultural scientists, extension workers, various agricultural agencies and growers was imperative.

He said agriculture is now among priority sectors and the government was all the time keen to make available maximum resources to accelerate the productive activity in the field as indicated by the Annual Development Programme (A.D.P.) The government had also allocated sizeable amounts of money for agricultural research. It was now the responsibility of the agricultural scientists to make "a tangible breakthrough towards wheat production," he said.

The minister pointed out that the agricultural scientists had an important role to play in boosting the food production. The government did evolve a production strategy on the basis of their recommendations which were implemented by the agricultural department of the provinces, extension workers and growers themselves.

Very Good Crop

Vice Admiral Janjua said it would be heartening to note that the wheat crop over the past years had been very good. Pakistan now occupied an important place in wheat production among the developing countries, a fact recognised by the World Food and Agriculture Organisation. In 1981-82 wheat production was 11.47 million tonnes. A record increase of 36 percent in wheat production over the last three years had brought self-sufficiency to the country. He said that the wheat crop during the current year was also good although the sudden rains affected the production. However, the self-sufficiency would remain unaffected even this year. An estimated 1.3 to 1.4 million tonnes of wheat will be in government stocks at the end of the year after meeting the requirements. He was confident that the next year's target of 12.2 million tonnes would be met.

He said the government will be considerate to the growers and give them incentives by fixing suitable purchase price and providing facilities of quality seeds, fertiliser and agricultural loans.

The minister said that the seed of two new wheat varieties Pak-81 and Punjab-81 would be available for the growers in a large quantity.

The demarcation zones for sowing new and old disease-free wheat varieties, the growing time needed, seeds, fertiliser and water requirements and other factors would be covered by the recommendations to be compiled by the seminar.

Dr Amir Mohammad, Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, welcoming the participants said the PARC was concentrating on training of agricultural scientists in the light of the latest research. He said 48 scientists had been trained so far while six more are undergoing this training at present. He said an announcement of package of technology for the agriculture sector in advance had helped raising production. This year it would also be the effort of the PARC and other research agencies to announce the package for the growers' guidance.

He said in future an emphasis on management of inputs, relationship of the growers with the government agencies and further intensive research would be the priorities to raise farm output.--APP

CS0: 4220/298

CABINET APPROVES PRIVATE UNITS FOR POLYESTER, CEMENT

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 17:

The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet at a meeting held here today approved proposals for setting up industries in the private sector for the manufacture of polyester yarn and white cement. Ghulam Ishaque Khan, Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, presided.

The proposal for the manufacture of polyester yarn envisages setting up of a plant in Lasbela district of Baluchistan with a capacity of 2000 tonnes based on chips. The present demand of polyester fabric yarn has been estimated at 60,000 tonnes which has been met largely through imports.

A white cement plant of a 50,000 tonne capacity is proposed to be set up in Dadu district of Sind at a cost of Rs. 305 million.

The ECC also approved a proposal of Messrs Asbestos Cement Industries for the expansion of the existing capacity of their asbestos pipe manufacturing plant at Karachi from 15,000 to 33,000 tonnes at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 million.

A proposal for the expansion of the RCD Ball Bearings Factory at Karachi from 1.3 million to 3.5 million capacity was also approved.

EXPORT OF BREEDING COWS

The ECC meeting was attended for the export of breeding cows, ossein and calcium diphosphate. It is proposed to allow the export of 2000 breeding cows out of a total population of over 4 million cows. The restricted export of breeding cattle is intended to provide incentive to breeders to produce quality cattle to encourage them to enter export market.

The committee noted a gradual decline in the export of calcium diphosphate and directed that the export of crushed bones be discouraged in order to improve prospects of manufactured items in the export market.

GAS SUPPLY

The additional secretary in-charge, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources presented to the ECC feasibility studies to increase gas supply in the country. The feasibility studies have been prepared by Messrs Gas Development Corporation of Chicago. The consultants have proposed to increase gas production from the existing and new gas fields viz. Sui, Marri, Kandkot, Dhodak and Pirkoh to the extent of 810 MMCFD by 1984-85 with an investment of Rs. 6375 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 3409 million over a period from 1982-85. Even with this investment for production, the supply and demand gap can be bridged only for a 4 years period after the completion of the proposed gas production in 1984-85.

ged only for a 4 years period after the completion of the proposed gas production in 1984-85.

The Finance Minister observed that the energy being the lifeline of economic development and progress, a realistic and practicable energy policy comprising all available resources needs to be prepared on a high priority basis. He directed that the concerned ministries and organisations formulate recommendations on utilisation and production of gas resources within the overall energy policy.

The Communications Secretary presenting a report on the improvement of the working of the Karachi Port Trust brought to the notice of ECC storage and emurrage charges accruing against various public sector agencies amounting to Rs. 40 million. The ECC directed that a deadline be fixed by which the concerned agencies should be asked to clear their dues.

The ECC approved proposals by the federal ministers for food and agriculture and cooperatives, industries and water and power, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, the Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, the secretaries planning and development, economic affairs, finance, commerce, water and power, statistics, industries, food and agriculture, production, petroleum and natural resources and communications and the additional cabinet secretary.—APP.

PLIGHT OF LAHORE'S UNREGISTERED LABORERS DISCUSSED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Jul 82 pp 9-11

[Article by Mahmood Zaman]

[Text]

A CAR stopped at a big city chowk and was instantly surrounded by dozens of shabbily dressed men whose unshaven chins and sleep-starved eyes told you they had had very little rest last night. A flabby gentleman with an obscene paunch and a contemptuous eye comes out and looks at the creatures around his car with a critical eye. He picks two from among the crowd as if he is giving them a commission in the civil service. The rest melt away, some sulking, some sportingly. The lucky two brought their paraphernalia, spades, buckets and all and were driven away by the sahib.

Who are they, where do they come from and what sort of services do they offer? What do they get for their labour?

Unregistered

Most of them are unregistered workers - masons, carpenters, painters, and unskilled hands who assist the 'raj mazdurs'. The better skilled among them are not so unlucky, really, provided they get a job for the day. For instance, if a mason cost you 50 to 60 rupees a day last year, today he will charge you anything between 60 to 75 rupees. Carpenters and painters come at 10 to 15 rupees higher than masons. A labourer - whether skilled or non-skilled - charges Rs. 30 to 35 per day. Masons

and labourers prefer working on daily wages whereas carpenters and painters usually seek longer contracts. All of them, however, have to work eight hours a day.

Not organised

'Casual labour' is not an organised body of men. That is why it is not possible to collect even half-way accurate facts about them. One can only try to be as objective as possible. There are more than twenty central places in Lahore where 'casual labour' gathers in the morning. These centres cannot exactly be classified as big or small. However, Tajpura, Ichhra, Rang Mahal, Chauburji and Lakshmi Chowks are some of the bigger labour markets. In some of these, one could find as many as two thousands workers of a morning. According to a very careful estimate, the total number of workers in all the city chowks is 15,000; of them more than 50 per cent are unskilled. They are generally a peaceful lot and nothing untoward has happened anywhere except at Ichhra, where the shopkeepers do not like them loitering around. Sometimes the job seekers are roughly treated by the police. A few of them are even taken to the police station and harassed.

Most of the unskilled workers come on their own but quite a few of them

have an understanding with masons and other skilled workers, promising them jobs whenever the latter land lucrative contracts. These people are a pressure group in the labour chowks and, therefore, stand a better chance of employment than their 'independent' colleagues. During periods when construction work is at its peak, the skilled workers or 'mistris' become all-important and unattached workers find it difficult to find jobs on their own. So they go begging to group leaders who have an assured supply of labour. If the 'mistri' is in the mood, he is kind enough to give them the odd job plus a lot of four-letter terms of endearment. They have learned therefore to be respectful to the 'mistri' who has a few contracts in his pocket.

Most of the unskilled workers interviewed by this correspondent detest working with contractors, because of the exploitative terms they offer to 'free' labour. Moreover, since most contractors do government jobs, they have considerable clout with official agencies that matter and any worker who tries to be difficult, can get it in the neck.

Not uncommon

It is not uncommon for a worker to get much less than the contractor had originally promised him but there's hardly anything he can do about it. At the end of the day, a worker often gets as much as would enable him to pay for a meal and the bus fare home. This is the best way to ensure that the poor fellow will turn up the next day. Exploitative as he is, the contractor is a necessary evil because during lean periods it is he who gets you the odd job that enables you to keep body and soul together.

Except for the rainy season, work is available almost the year round. The peak labour period is immediately before and after the rains. The workers this correspondent talked to, said they got work 20 to 25 days a month and that was not too bad, but it was the constant uncertainty about the morrow that was so killing.

Khuda Bukhsh who hails from a village in Narowal Tehsil, has been

working for the last 42 years. He claims to be in the nineties but he looks much younger. He lives in the Canal Park and must have carried a countless number of bricks on his head at countless construction sites. He is lucky in that he has no dependents, he says but even so, he, too, is afraid of the morrow. Will he get work or will he not get work? "This uncertainty is infinitely more difficult to bear than all the hundreds of tons of bricks I have carried in my life", he says with despair in his sunken eyes.

Similar is the experience of middle-aged Azeem who comes to Lahore every day from a village near Shahdara. The difference is that Azeem has a large family — seven people — to support. "Even a day without work is a luxury I can't afford and there have been many such days in my life. But one has to make do with such work as comes your way and be grateful for it", says Azeem.

Akbar Ali is another worker who has many mouths to feed — a wife, four children, ageing parents and three children of a widowed sister — eleven in all. He is a retired army jawan from a village near Multan. When his sister came to live with him for the rest of her life, he felt that his monthly pension was not sufficient for a family this size. So he decided to shift to Lahore in search of better prospects. He had his pension commuted, got other dues, rented a house in Ichhra and joined a firm as a peon. But five to six hundred rupees a month in Lahore, he soon found out, was no better than living on his pension in Multan.

One day he ran into a 'well-wisher' who suggested that he go to Ichhra Chowk to try his luck. For the last three years he has been doing just that. He, too, gets about 26 working days every month and is also trying to be a 'mistri'. Even so much of the money he makes goes into paying rent for the house his family lives in. "I am better off than I was a peon, but you tell me, sahib, is this life worth living?" he asked.

Different views

Opinions differ regarding a permanent job. Some say that they cannot find one while others maintain a permanent job is not a very attractive proposition. There are those who would want nothing better than permanent jobs even for the sake of a few hundred rupees, as they feel that this would save them from the torture of finding a fresh job every morning without fixed holidays, without other benefits. On the other hand, there are those who would rather have more money than fixed holidays and fringe benefits "which you never get anyhow", as one 'free' worker put it.

Ejaz Ahmad is an educated young man but prefers trying his luck every morning. Hailing from Sohdra, he passed the intermediate examination from Sialkot and became a typist. However, he could not get any job with any government or private office. For two years he kept on applying but in vain.

Comes to Lahore

One day he came to Lahore and again tried his luck. This time he succeeded but his typing skill was ignored and he was given a uniform to wear and sit outside the sahib's office. His mother had great expectations of her only son but the son could hardly eke out a living for himself. One day his sahib sent him to fetch a 'mistry' and a worker for some repairs in the office. When he came to know what the two would get for the repair job, Ejaz decided he had been taken for a ride too long. He took off his peon's uniform and went looking for a job at the Bhati Chowk. "The hell with secure employment. I am my own agent now and I am happy". He lives in Bilal Gunj with his mother and younger brother whom he has persuaded not to go in for higher education but to acquire some skill that will increase his worth in the labour market.

'Wants a steady job

But Ilma (probably Ilam Din) wants a steady job. But his grey hair stands in the way. He started as a brick-layer, became a 'mistri' but feels he needs some rest now. He comes from Shakargarh and says that he would settle for an office job, even as a peon. Easier said than done, however. All his efforts in this regard have met with failure. "I have not many working days left in me and I want to leave this daily search for bread. There are many jobs even today in the labour market — though not as many as there used to be in the seventies — but I want a steady job now", he says.

'Mistri' Bashir Ahmad is not much satisfied with construction work these days. A skilled mason belonging to Sahiwal, he has some ten years of experience in the field. He cannot forget the days when, after eight in the morning, no 'mistri', no worker was available at the labour 'addas' and he could afford to say 'no' to friend and foe. But the seventies are a story of the past! Those were the days when new shopping plazas were coming up. New roads and bridges were being constructed and the cost of living was comparatively low. Normally, a 'mistri's' wage was 50 rupees then. Yet he was happy. "But it is terrible these days even at Rs. 75 a day". He worked at the Summit Minar. "Those were the days. The construction boom is over and only 'routine work' is left", he says wistfully.

At least 60 per cent of these job-seekers come from villages and they are 'casual' in the real sense of the term. They come to the city at a time when no sowing or harvesting work is required. During this period, Lahore is literally flooded with casual labour from the countryside. But when harvesting starts in the middle of April and when paddy is sown in the

monsoon these villagers again tend to their fields and barter their services for grain and their earnings are certainly higher than the wages they get in the city. Many of the workers whose villages are not very far off, come to the city every day. Their number is not less than 10 per cent of the total labour available. They come from Kamoke, Mundke, Kala Shah Kaku, Shahdara, Bhambhay Jhuggian, Mahmood Booti, Manga Mandi, Raiwind, Lalliani, Kasur, etc. But I have also met a few who come daily from Wazirabad and Gakkhar Mandi. They go back to save some money which could otherwise be spent for a night's board and lodging in Lahore.

Original Lahorites

Of the remaining 30 per cent, original Lahorites constitute only about 5 per cent, while the rest are newcomers. They have brought their families and rented houses here. It can thus be seen that around 90 per cent of the job-seekers in Lahore come from the countryside. Among them are landless peasants as well as those whose holdings have become increasingly uneconomic with the passage of time or whose lands have become unproductive through waterlogging and salinity. Search for the 'good life' may be another, though not very significant factor for the mass exodus of rural labour to Lahore and other urban centres.

A migrant worker told this correspondent that his monthly income was a little more than 900 rupees, out of which he had to pay two hundred for a one-room house with an open verandah and a small store. Eleven people — two ageing parents, a widowed sister and her three children and his own five-member family were living in this one-room 'house' constructed on one-and-a-half 'marlas'. But he considered himself 'lucky'. He had an independent house in Ichhra and that, too, for Rs. 200!

The majority of the workers, however, cannot go back and have to stay the night in Lahore. Their main concern is not where to sleep but the safety of their equipment. So they prefer living in groups with a little store and a store-keeper. Since their main concern is the equipment, they also prefer living near a shop selling construction tools and building material. They also like living in industrial areas among their own class where cheap hotels, 'tandoors' and 'lassi' and milk shops are available. Some live near the labour 'addas'. Under-construction buildings can also be their temporary abodes. At a site where a multi-storey building is under construction, contractors and construction firms usually arrange their lodging and boarding, normally within the same premises. And if a big house is under construction, the owner usually allows workers to live on the premises. The owner obliges them because he wants to ensure not only their daily turn up but also the safety of his construction material. Those who do not get such permission are compelled to sleep on footpaths, on 'tharas' and in public parks.

Baba Kandianwala

As noted earlier, Tajpura is one of the biggest labour chowks where hundreds of job-seekers gather in the morning. Close to the chowk, Baba Kandianwala has a spacious place which he has reserved for storing workers' equipment. The Baba charges every worker five rupees a month for this storage facility and this they happily pay. The Baba, who also manufactures 'kandis' (used for levelling plaster) is not concerned where his 'clients' pass the night. The Baba has at least 250 'clients' most of whom spend the night on the cement slabs placed on the principal drain known as 'Ganda Nala' in Misri Shah. Of course, there are no beds. They put their 'chaddars' on the cement slabs and use their arms for pillows. At night the

place looks like a veritable refugee camp.

Everybody is up with the sun. Breakfast is at the nearby 'lassi' shops. Two 'kulchas' and a glassful of 'lassi' or a 'pao' or so of 'dahi' will do. And now another job for another day.

All for Allah.

Another concentration of these workers is on Sher Shah Road in Shad Bagh, where Baba Aziz has set apart a two-storey house for these workers free of charge because his Pir Sahib once commanded him to serve the poor in the name of Allah. Though no beds are available here, too, workers at least have a roof over their heads. Hundreds of them live at Baba Aziz's place which is the only one of its kind in the city. So the plight of the casual labour can well be imagined particularly when it rains.

Unprotected

Casual labour is not protected by any labour laws. They are covered by no social security and are insured neither against disability nor death. No Government department, no official agency is responsible for them nor has any reliable statistics because they are not an organised labour force. There's just one Baba Aziz for the whole lot. Is it one Baba too many or is it nine hundred and ninety-nine Babas too few?

Your guess is as good as mine.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN NWFP REVIEWED

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 14 Aug 82 Supplement p VIII

[Article by Omer Amer]

[Text]

The industrialisation of a country is based on a number of factors which include availability of required raw material, marketing, manpower, proper technology, infrastructure like gas, power, telephone means and communication and transportation. The NWFP is rich in raw material for agro-based and mineral based industries and the Provincial Government had taken concrete measures to set up such industries in both public and private sectors.

SARHAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Since private industrial investment was not forthcoming in the desired volume, Government decided to step into the industrial field itself. This has been done through the creation of Sarhad Development Authority in 1973. The organisation is the Provincial Government's Industrial Development Corporation. The performance of this

corporation in planning and executing industrial projects has been very encouraging. Within a short period of its creation, the authority prepared nine large and medium sized industrial projects involving a total investment of about Rs. 560 million. These projects consist of a sugar mill (second largest in the country), four cold storages, two vegetable ghee plants (now transferred to Ghee Corporation), a corn complex, and one of the largest and most modern tanneries in the country. It has also established a Rosin and Turpentine Factory and Goitre Control Project.

The Khazana Sugar Mills which has a capacity to process 3000 tons of cane and 2500 tons of beet per day was completed at a cost of Rs. 265 million. The project was completed in 1976 and has been operational since then. It has been recording the highest recovery

ry in the Frontier and secondary to the Sind sugar factories. The factory has earned good reputation and profit during the last 5 years of its operation. About 1200 people are employed in this factory. In addition to successfully operating KSM, the SDA are also operating Haripur Rosin and Turpentine Factory which was rehabilitated at a total cost of Rs. 8.286 million and Goitre Control Project set up in the Industrial Estate, Peshawar, at a total cost of Rs. 4.541 million.

Six factories based on locally available raw material had been established with the technical assistance of Bulgaria. This include a leather tannery at Jehangira established at a total cost of Rs. 91.804 million a corn complex at a cost of Rs 50.50 million and four cold storages at Peshawar, Mardan, Mingora and Haripur which had been completed at a cost of more than Rs. 128 million. A Brick Plant at D.I. Khan is nearing completion while setting up of a Sugar Mill in D.I. Khan is in planning stage.

The Sarhad Development Authority has embarked upon a well planned programme directed towards transferring its industrial units to other organisations which has helped raising funds for planning new industrial ventures in NWFP. Under the programme, the Rosin and Turpentine Factory, Haripur and the Corn Complex at Jehangira have already been disinvested

and transferred to other organisations. The Peshawar Cold Storage and Ice Plant is also being transferred to other parties while negotiations to dis-invest other units, including the Jehangira Tannery, are in progress. This policy is expected to help accumulating capital in order to undertake new industrial ventures by the Sarhad Development Authority.

In addition to industrial development, the SDA has also undertaken mineral exploration. A Mineral Development Wing has been created to undertake exploration of various mineral deposits in the province which is potentially very rich, but due to lack of scientific exploitation, bulk of mineral wealth remained untapped. With the British Government assistance Phosphate deposits in Hazara Division are being investigated. As a result of this a scheme for the development of Kakul Deposits and establishment of a Crushing and Grinding Unit at a total cost of Rs. 36.77 million has recently been approved. The Phosphate extracted from Kakul deposit will be utilized by National Fertilizer Corporation factories. SDA has taken over the antimony mines together with the processing plant in Chitral and in order to develop this deposit Government of NWFP has approved a scheme and work on this is in progress.

Geological exploratory work on Nepheline Syenite deposit of Koga near Buner,

Swat has been completed and reserves of the mineral has been estimated at 6000 million tons. This mineral can be used in the production of aluminium, white cement, caustic soda and soda ash in a single Alkali Complex. The second important raw material for these products is lime stone which have already been located in the vicinity of the deposit. A team of geologists from SDA is already working in Kohistan area to investigate mineral deposits there. Presently the team is working on Chromite deposit reported near Jijal. This deposit appears to be very extensive and may prove to be the highest after famous Muslim Bagh Chromite deposit.

SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD

It has been estimated that 80% of the industrial labour force in Pakistan is employed in small sector industrial units. Government of NWFP have set up a Small Industries Development Board, which is responsible for promotion of cottage and small sector industries by imparting skill and training work, by providing facilities which small industries cannot provide for themselves by ensuring small investiture access to bank credit and by providing expert advisory services to small industries. The NWFP SIDB has established 16 carpet centres, 6 embroidery and knitting centres, 7 textile and Patti making centres, 3 wood working centres

and 2 wool spinning centres in the province. About 645 persons are imparted professional training in these training centres every year. The passed out trainees have either set up their own project or have been employed in other private units. In order to promote rural uplift and equitable distribution of employment opportunities these centres have been established in less developed areas of the province. Presently there are about 3000 carpet looms in the province in the private sector employing about 10000 to 12000 workers. This has been the achievement of the SIDB in the carpet industry.

The SIDB has established 7 small industrial estates in the province at a total cost of Rs. 15.778 million. These estates are located at Peshawar, Mardan, Abbottabad, Khalabat, D.I. Khan, Bannu and Kohat. The Peshawar and Mardan Estates are fully colonised while Abbottabad, Bannu and D.I. Khan are in the process of colonization. The colonization of Khalabat Estate is nearing completion while preliminary work on the Kohat Estate had already been taken in hand. The Leather Goods Service Centre at Bannu is being established at a total cost of Rs. 15 million with the help of World Bank.

In addition to providing training facilities this centre will also produce quality leather products for local market as well as export. In addition SIDB has

established 7 carpet centres in the province for rehabilitation of Afghan refugees. In the field of financial assistance to the private sector the Board has been able to give financial help to 129 parties through commercial banks and IDBP to the tune of more than Rs. 300 million during past 7 years for setting up of new industries. In order to encourage industrial development, the Government has taken several steps through provision of tax holiday in Malakand and Dera Ismail Khan Divisions and in the District of Mansehra and Kohistan of Hazara Division. All the industries establish in Industrial Estates located in the Province and 100 Sq Kilometer area from Nowshera to Jehangira enjoy tax holiday facility. This incentive coupled with availability of reasonably cheap labour and vast power supply from Tarbela and other Hydro-electric Power Stations in the Province would provide adequate opportunities for investment both in the public as well as private sector.

GOVT. TRANSPORT SERVICE

In order to provide people with cheap and reliable transport, 530 buses have been purchased for the Government Transport Service and deployed on various routes in the Province. A new Service was introduced between Dir and Chitral thus linking Chitral with rest of the Provin-

ce by road. This has solved the transportation problems of the people of Chitral who had to spend lot of money in getting a seat in the over-loaded Jeeps running between Dir and Chitral. For the first time in its history the organisation had showed a profit of about Rs. 5 million during 1981-82.

LABOUR

A colony consisting of 240 quarters had already been established for industrial workers at Mardan while 300 quarters completed at a cost of more than Rs. 15 million at Aman-Garh had already been allotted to the workers. It is expected that 300 quarters at Peshawar would be ready for allotment to the industrial workers by the end of this year. In addition to these it is also proposed to construct 646 quarters at Kohat, Mingora, Mardan, Bannu and Amangarh. In addition to this it is also proposed to develop 100 plots each at D.I. Khan, Charsadda and Haripur & 50 plots each at Sakhakot, and Takht-e-Bhai. These projects are estimated to cost Rs. 61.492 million.

The total number of factories installed at various places in the Province now stands at 287, indicating a 200% increase in the velocity of industrial development over the average rate

of annual growth registered during the three decades since the inception of Pakistan.

The overall investment made by the private sector in the field of industry over the past four years has been figured out at about Rs. 500 million with a 20% foreign exchange component. Loans to meet a sizeable portion of the finances involved are being advanced liberally by PICIC, IDBP and the Provincial Small Industries Development Board.

It is estimated that for the next five years there will be 80000-90000 additions to the ranks of job seekers every year. These persons will not find jobs in the agricultural sector or in Government. The only sector which would employ a substantial portion of this number is the industry, commerce and mining sector. It costs about Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. one lakh to create an Industrial Job in the large and medium Sector and for every Industrial Job two are created outside the factory in transport, catering, etc. Thus to mitigate the unemployment situation in the NWFP at least 10,000 industrial jobs should be created every year through an Industrial Investment of Rs. 100 crores per annum or Rs. 500 crores over the next five years.

BRIEFS

MUSLIM LEAGUE LEADERS DETAINED--Sargodha, Aug 17--Khawaja Khairuddin and Malik Mohammad Qasim, President and Secretary-General of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League were detained here today by the police and taken to Lahore. They were picked up when they came out of Sargodha District Bar after addressing the Bar Association.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS--United Nations, Aug 17--Pakistan's new ambassador S. Shah Nawaz today presented his credentials to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at a simple but dignified ceremony. Nawaz replaces Niaz A. Naik who relinquished charge in June to take over as the foreign secretary in Islamabad.--APP [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 1]

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS--Islamabad, Aug 17--The Federal Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Syed Fakhr Imam said here today that preparations have commenced for local bodies elections scheduled for September next year. Talking to newsmen at the National Centre for Rural Development here this morning he said that the pattern of these elections will be the same as the previous ones. As a first step in this direction the delimitation of the constituencies has been taken up as several new districts have emerged, the Minister said. Replying to a question Syed Fakhr Imam said that the reply to a questionnaire for eliciting public opinion about improvement of the local bodies system has been very encouraging and these proposals will be included in the report of local bodies commission. He said this will be an important document in future planning of the country. The minister added that the scrutiny of the proposals in response to the questionnaire will start soon after they are received. Earlier while addressing the participants of the second training course on district level planning he said that the government is very keen to have people's participation at grass root level. Fakhr Imam emphasised the importance of district level planning and described it as a revolutionary step towards raising the standard of living of the rural masses.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 8]

NORTHERN AREAS DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE--Gilgit, Aug 17--Martial Law Administrator Zone 'E' Maj-Gen Pirdad Khan has said Federal Government would spend Rs. 2000 million for the development programme of Northern Areas during the current fiscal year. Inaugurating a 200 kilowatt hydel power station in Tangir Valley of Diamer district here today he said Rs. four million were spent on the completion of Tangir Hydel project which will cater to the needs of the people of Tangir valley. The project was started on the behest of President General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq who also provided a special grant of Rs. 2.5 million for this project.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 8]

BOOKLET FORFEITED--Lahore, Aug 17--The Government of the Punjab has forfeited all the copies of the booklet entitled Dawat-i-Chauro-Fikr written by Nisar Hussain Faizabadi (Narowal) and published by Idara-e-Dars-e-Amal, Tahir Street, Chowk Nawab Sahib, inside Mochi Gate, Lahore which contained objectionable material.--APP [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 8]

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNERS TRAVEL--S.M. Zafar, chief patron of the Human Rights Society of Pakistan left Karachi yesterday on a three-week tour of the United States, London and Geneva. Zafar will meet Ahmed bin Bella, Chairman of Islamic Commission on Human Rights and Commission's Secretary-General Salim Azzam in London. He would meet representatives of international human rights bodies in America and in Geneva and would extend invitations to them to visit Pakistan on the occasion of the Human Rights Day. It will be recalled here that the Human Rights Society of Pakistan is holding an international conference on human rights. The conference would be presided over by Ahmed bin Bella. Haq Nawaz Javinda, Central Vice-President of the Human Rights Society of Pakistan is proceeding on a tour of Saudi Arabia on Aug 19. Haq Nawaz will discuss the problem of thousands of Pakistanis languishing in Saudi prisons with the Governor of Mecca and other Saudi Government officials. It will be recalled here that on the appeal of the Society the Saudi Government has already reduced by half the prison terms of Pakistani captives. Haq Nawaz would be impressing upon the Saudi authorities either to grant full remission to Pakistani prisoners or transfer them to Pakistani jails.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Aug 82 p 8]

BAR COUNCIL RESTRICTIONS CRITICIZED--The President has promulgated the 1973 Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Ordinance... Through one change, members of bar councils and associations have been barred from taking direct or indirect part in politics... Particularly hit will be those lawyers who are members of the various banned political parties. Apart from this the Government has referred the Islamic Ideology Council's recommendations regarding a new political set-up for the country back to it. All this shows that there is no immediate prospect of a return to democracy and that the status quo will continue whereas circumstances demand a change and the restoration of the people's rights.--MAGHRABI PAKISTAN, July 17 [Text] [Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Jul 82 p 34]

POET BARRED FROM SIND--Habib Jalib has been externed from Sind for a month. The order barring the poet's entry, residence or presence in Sind with immediate effect was issued by the Government of that province on June 21 and was served on him on 13th of this month in Lahore after he had returned from Karachi after a brief stay. The action was taken to prevent the Lahore-based poet from "acting in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order in Sind." [Text] [Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Jul 82 p 14]

EXPORTS TO ROMANIA--Pakistan will export to Romania variety of goods under a memorandum of economic, technical and scientific cooperation concluded between the two countries recently. The Export Promotion Bureau released the list of items which will be exported to Romania. These are: coke, rice, raw cotton, cotton yarn, cotton textile (excluding yarn) woolen textiles, towels, sheets and pillow cases, wool, hand knotted carpets, machine-made woolen/jute carpets, sports goods, leather and leather products, jute manufacturers, canned and preserved fish, chemicals for textile industry, dry fruits and miscellaneous goods such as methanol, spectacle frames, castor seeds, oil cakes, tobacco and other goods, surgical instruments, pig iron, chrome and manganese ore.--APP [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 1]

CHAFFAR KHAN WANTS TALKS--Peshawar, Aug 18--The Red Shirt Leader, Khan Abdul Chaffar Khan has made a fervent appeal to the Afghan refugees and Mujahideen leaders stationing in Pakistan to sit together with him to work out a way to end the hostilities in Afghanistan. In a press statement issued from Wali Bagh Charsadda where he is staying with his family, Khan Abdul Chaffar Khan said it has been his wish to meet the leaders of Mujahideen operating inside Afghanistan and to discuss with them ways and means with which this unfortunate fighting could be brought to an end. He said his only aim to meet the Afghan leaders was due to deep sympathy with their cause as brethren in faith and he would do everything possible and within his reach to help them bring to a solution of the Afghan crisis.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 1]

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY--The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority is expected to commence its operations from October 1 this year, it was learnt in Karachi yesterday. The authority which will replace the existing department of Civil Aviation will have its headquarters at Karachi. The chief executive of the authority will be a Director-General. It is understood that the first Director General of the authority will be a senior officer of the Pakistan Air Force. It may be recalled that the federal cabinet had approved the setting up of the Civil Aviation Authority last month.--PPI [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 3]

TARBELA TRANSMISSION WORK PROGRESSING--On the third and last phase of Asia's biggest transmission line connecting Tarbela power station with Jamshoro via Faisalabad, Multan and Guddu is in full progress and 65 per cent work of the tower foundations had been completed by July 1982. The third phase accounts for construction of 1,216 towers out of which foundations of 847 have been completed. Besides, 627 steel tower structures for this 439 kilometer long section of the transmission line have been erected accounting for completion of over 52 percent work. First and second phases of this project were completed and energised in 1979 and 1980 respectively linking Tarbela with Faisalabad and onward with Guddu via Multan. The 1,221 kilometers long transmission line is scheduled to be completed in June 1983 and will transfer a substantial quantity of Tarbela as enormous power potential to Hyderabad and Karachi to meet power requirements of these areas and also reducing transmission losses.--APP [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 3]

POLICE DENIES BAN--The Police yesterday denied press reports regarding stoppage of crime reports to newsmen. A spokesman of the Sind Police said in Karachi that for the purpose of streamlining the system a daily bulletin will now be issued by the Public Relations Officer at the Central Police Office for the Press.--APP [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 19 Aug 82 p 5]

COURSE FOR AFGHAN TEACHERS--Abbotabad, Aug 12--Alhaj Kifayatullah Khan, Director of Education (FATA), NWFP, has inaugurated here a 10-day orientation course for the Afghan refugees head teachers of primary schools in NWFP. Speaking on the occasion he said that Pakistan Government was, in collaboration with the UNHCR, taking keen interest in the education of Afghan refugee children who had taken temporarily refuge in this country on purely humanitarian groups. Mr Muhammad Mohsin Khan, Additional Commissioner, Afghan Refugee Education Department, said that the number of Afghan school children will reach about one lac by the end of current calendar year. He said that the number of girl students was also rapidly increasing. He said that a number of Afghan refugee students had been given admission into different medical, engineering and other professional colleges and technical schools. He said that the present series of re-orientation courses was designed to educate the Afghan refugees primary school head teachers in modern methods of education, evaluation, discipline and maintenance of school record. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 13 Aug 82 p 5]

CSO: 4220/296

GOVERNMENT INTEREST, DEBT REPAYMENT REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 4 Aug 82 pp 10, 9

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text]

THE national government paid a total of P2.6 billion in interest and amortization on domestic and foreign debts during the first six months this year.

According to the Bureau of the Treasury, interest payments amounted to P1.7 billion, while amortization on domestic and foreign debts reached P885.6 million.

Close to one-half or P603.7 million of the interest payments during the first semester were those due on foreign loans. The rest were interest on treasury notes and bonds and debt instruments issued by government agencies.

THE BULK of amortization payments amounting to P465.9 million were applied to foreign loans. The largest amortization payment on domestic debts was applied on treasury bonds, the bureau added.

The bureau also reported that subsidies to various government corporations and agencies amounted to P788.55 million at end-June 1982. The biggest amount of subsidy during the first

semester went to fertilizer during the first semester worth P405.9 million.

During the period, the government also pumped in a total of P4.76-billion worth of equity in public corporations. The single biggest amount worth P1.03 billion went to

the National Power Corp.

Another big recipient of government equity during the first semester was the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) which got fresh funds worth P600 million. —
George T. Nervez

PHILIPPINES

MANIPUR TERRORISTS WARN OFFICIALS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 31 Jul 82 p 7

[Text] A self-styled underground organization--Terrorist Suicidal Service--has claimed responsibility for killing three people including the Education Secretary of the Manipur Government over the past month. The organization has sent letters to some Government offices in Manipur threatening that it would take action against "corrupt people if they do not correct themselves," according to official sources in Calcutta.

The authorities in Delhi have been apprised of this. It is yet to be ascertained whether the organization has any link with the People's Liberation Army and the Kangleipak Communist Party in Manipur.

The letters, one typed in English and the other written in Manipuri, have stated that corruption has become rampant among the present Ministers and officials and the organization has pledged to destroy "social evils." It has already executed three people for the benefit of the masses, the letters claimed.

Mr B. Singh, an Executive Engineer, was killed by unknown assailants during the last week of June. Dr M. Sharma was fatally injured on July 5 while Mr R. Singh, Education Secretary, was shot dead by some unidentified young men at his residence in Imphal on July 12 last.

The letters have alleged that many people in Manipur are misusing power and authority for their personal gains, thereby destroying "our motherland."

CSO: 4220/301

LABOR LAYOFFS FOR 1981 REPORTED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 4 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Chito Parazo]

[Text]

A total of 78,466 workers throughout the country lost their jobs last year because of the apparently critical finances of the business sector.

Statistics compiled by the Labor Statistics Service (LSS) of the Ministry of Labor and Employment show that these workers were dismissed permanently or laid off temporarily by distressed firms.

Out of the 78,466, LSS sources said, 15,023 were dismissed permanently. More than one half of the terminated workers were from Metro Manila.

Labor Ministry sources said only a few of those who were terminated were able to go back to work.

On the basis of first and second quarter data this year, labor sources said, there is basis to believe that the unemployment rate is increasing.

They said the unemployment situation seems to have significantly worsened due to the economic slump.

The industries most affected by termination cases were manufacturing, 63,640; textile, 19,270; and the fabricated metal and equipment, 13,940.

The common reasons cited for terminating their workers are financial losses, lack of raw materials, high cost of production, and lack of market.

CASH DEFICIT REPORTED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Aug 82 p 13

[Text]

The national government incurred a deficit of P7,387 million in its cash operations during the six-month period January to June this year, the bureau of treasury reported yesterday.

Government disbursements, excluding loan repayments, reached a total of P41,638 during the period, reflecting an increase of P10,591 million or 34.12 per cent over the P31,047 expenditures recorded for the same period last year.

A major portion was spent for budgetary disbursements which went up by 26.57 per cent from the P21,773 million in the comparative period last year.

On the other hand, government receipts from both budgetary and non-budgetary sources reached a total of P34,251 million, reflecting an increase of P8,134 million or 31.15 per cent over that of

the same period in 1981.

Budgetary revenues of P19,403 million showed an increase of P2,880 million or 17.44 per cent over that of the same period last year.

Collections by the bureau of internal revenue and by the bureau of customs reached P10,313 million and P5,533 million, respectively, during the six-month period, reflecting an improvement of 14.58 per cent overall.

Non-tax revenue collections amounted to P1,958 million or 30.91 per cent more than that collected during the same period last year.

As of the end of the first semester, the national government had a cash balance of P16,362 million, up 6.07 per cent than the ending balance of P15,426 million during the same period in 1981.

GENERAL VOWS TO END MILITARY ABUSES

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Aug 82 p 18

[Excerpt]

NAGA CITY —

Brig Gen. Rene Cruz, commander of Constabulary and police forces in the Bicol region, vowed here last week that he would countenance abuses committed by any member of his command.

The general gave the assurance before masonic dignitaries from Metro Manila and the Southern Tagalog regions who were gathered here for the constitution and installation of officers of Naga City Lodge No. 257.

He pledged that complaints of abuses committed by his men would be acted upon within 24 hours.

We have even enlisted the help of parish priests and other leading citizens of the community to help us by acting as channels for these complaints,

should the complainants feel inhibited to bring their woes directly to us, the general stressed.

Admitting that the New People's Army was giving problems to his command, Gen. Cruz said that his men were not sleeping on the job.

We have launched a massive drive to win the hearts and minds of the people through civic action projects and multi-agency approaches so that they can see for themselves what the government is really doing for them, the general pointed out.

We have opened up our pacification drive in this region with a pledge not to campaign purely through the barrel of a gun but through the compassionate beatings of the human heart, and we are succeeding quite remarkably, he added.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS CLERGY-MILITARY AGREEMENT

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 4 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

REPRESENTATIVES of the clergy and the military in the Church-Military Liaison Group forged an agreement to the effect that a religious denomination may obtain the release of a clergyman detained by the military by asking for the temporary release through the CMLG. The requesting party and the sponsoring member of the CMLG will guarantee that the detainee will not escape and that he will be made available if his presence is required by the authorities.

The agreement should improve the relations between the religious denominations and the military authorities. It is well known that in some places the relations are racked by misunderstanding.

The initiative was taken by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile probably in representation of the thinking not only in the defense establishment but also in the important levels of the political branches of government that the church as a group is an important factor in national unity.

Since the influence of the religious groups is pervasive and can take many forms, the rule has been administration politics should not offend religious sensibilities but rather should lean over backward to accommodate religious views to the extent permitted by the laws.

It is said that the CMLG has met 92 times. This indicates that there has been a continual dialogue between church

groups and the military for some time. It implies there has been much to talk about.

It has also been reported that the CMLG has regional chapters. This suggests that the group is larger than what we may think.

The group can accomplish much in eliminating whatever adversarial attitudes there may be in some troubled areas.

CSO: 4220/301

MANIPUR INSURGENCY ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Aug 82 p 8

[Article by S. Guru Dev]

[Text]

TEMBA, the surviving "ojha" or guru, is back in Manipur; he was earlier presumed killed by Burmese security forces. His return could revive the PLA's morale; it could also lead to bloodshed. Kunjabehari Singh's succession to the leadership after Bisheswar's capture at Tekham a year ago was smooth. The same "rigid chain of command" and acceptability of the next man can ensure an orderly transition. Khaldem Manikanta was the man of the hour after Kunjabehari's death at Kodompokpi but Temba's return complicates matters. The PLA's discipline is not what it used to be. Manikanta's dissolute ways could be his undoing. Nevertheless, Temba will have to assert his authority, a process not devoid of violence.

Temba is believed to have trained Meitei recruits in the Kachin area of north Burma. Estimates of his "boys" vary but the number could not be large. If the PLA had had a strong tactical reserve, the disasters at Tekham and Kodompokpi could have been avoided. Kodompokpi was no place to be trapped in by day (Tekham had, at least, an outcrop of hills). The PLA leaders and their "suicide" squad were an important mission; they were awaiting a courier when surrounded by the security forces. The late Kunjabehari's presence invests the group with the authority of a Tac HQ in army jargon.

Black Day

Kodompokpi was a black day for the PLA but the situation is not irretrievable with freshly trained recruits, as reported, from an area where Muivah, the leader of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland seems to have set up a school for insurgency and jungle warfare in the Samra Tract. Civil and military intelligence reports confirm that Muivah has recruited about 200 Tangkhuls, including 40 women, with a high percentage of educated young men by underground standards. Assamese extremists are also believed to have been trained in Muivah's "school".

The Namthilok ambush in which 21 jawans were killed on the Imphal-Ukhrul road was carried out by a detachment of Tangkhuls assisted by hardcore Meiteis. The Meiteis were probably given "battle inoculation", as the MNP had done with Tripuri tribals in 1979-80 when the bazars at Amarapur and Kanchanpur were looted, a few traders were killed and panic was created in relatively isolated communities. Observers feel that PREKAP—what is left of it—has a tentative understanding with the NSCN. Others in the queue may include Manipur's latest mushrooms, the Young Peoples Army and the Red Guard. They may share the fate of the Kanglaipak Communist Party which surfaced after an orgy of PREPAK factional killings. The

KCP maintains a low profile after the capture of its "chief", Y. Ibohanoi Meitei, and two others in June last year.

Do the "mushrooms" symbolize the hopes and aspirations of Manipuri youth? Are they the spokesmen for a restless generation yearning for social justice and an equitable economic order? Is the Meitei also facing a crisis of identity? Whatever the answers, barring the PLA, the others are reminders of the God that failed. They are more akin to the Mada, with blood feuds, murders and extortions. Bishesar had respect for T. Chandra, the founder of PREPAK, who could have been a restraining influence but was captured early. Hell was let loose after his radio appeal for a peaceful solution. His own brother was murdered; thereafter one lost count of the killings.

Maipak Sharma, or the "jackal" as someone called him, found Assam congenial for a while till his "executioners" like Leishaboi picked up the trail. Fortunately, Leishaboi's criminal instincts betrayed him in Gauhati and he had to run. He was ultimately gunned down by the Nagaland Armed Police at Ghumukudema near Dimapur. PREPAK's decline is more revealing than understood. One should not forget that PREPAK was the "graduate" school of insurgency. Tula Chandra quit studying to organize the thousands of unemployed graduates from Manipur's incredibly numerous colleges (over 100,000 unemployed if matriculates are included). He and others like Sushila Devi, the notorious "judge executioner" also a dropout, rebelled against a system that perpetuated the "bondage of mind and body". Unlike Bajoy Singh who was arrested in Delhi recently (he was staying in a JNU hostel), Tulachandra kept his ideological options open.

The rash of killings in Manipur left former underground leaders in the region aghast. They have never understood the revolutionary urge in Meiteis killing Meiteis. The insurgency in Manipur is at the cross-roads: its credibility is at stake with the other ethnic rebels. The indiscriminate killings in Imphal have eroded public sympathy. The torture and murder of Sarojbala Devi, a Meitei by PLA members shocked the community. Captured docu-

ments spoke of pressures within the PLA and indiscipline. Pure disinformation and malicious gossip, exclaim Meitei zealots. Maybe, but that does not account for the rethinking and reevaluation among their intellectuals. Imphal's petty bourgeoisie remains the PLA's sizable and consistent ally but, ironically enough, the "exploited peasantry" which sparked the liberation struggle is lukewarm about Bisheswar's teachings and the New Dawn.

Bisheswar and his ojhas were schooled in Tibet where they were taught to live off the land, sustained by ideology and anything handy as a weapon. Bisheswar's scepticism and distaste for Muivah's technique is understandable when one contrasts their experience and objectives. Muivah believes in an armed insurrection to ensure Naga sovereignty. Phizo is still an attraction for him. His long years in China as the Naga Federal Government's plenipotentiary and the traumatic shock over the Shillong accord led him to further experiments with Maoism.

Initially Muivah fell foul of the church but recovered ground with the slogan "Nagaland for sure, he is the ranking Maoist Christ." With Bisheswar's cap among the north-eastern insurgents, Bisheswar probably would have found him "cluttered up" and dogmatic. Muivah lacked subtlety whereas he (Bisheswar) deserved praise for dealing deftly with Meitei insularity, calling his creation the PLA (Eastern Wing) and implying thereby that other jurisdictional wings were welcome. Although Muivah now accepts the logic of a collective Maoist punch, he is not enthused by Bisheswar's theory of mobilizing tribals in the north-east under one banner to drive the "Delhi bandits" out. And Muivah would not be alone in feeling so. The traditional Meitei revivalists are self-centred; even the progressives among them, a minority, are non-committal. In the thirties, however, the Meitei Marup, for example, was unambiguous about its objectives. It stood for the old Meitei religion, script and culture.

Maj. Gen. Nayyar, who has had striking successes in a limited period, regards Ukhrul as the key (Ukhrul, the home of the Tangkhul, has given Manipur two Chief Ministers in Yangmaaho Shauza and Rishang Keishing). Rishang faces a smear campaign as a lackey of the Centre and for

"toeing" the army line. The army authorities are embarrassed. Maj. Gen. Nayyar says that "there's no question of Big Brother muscling in; it is teamwork". The daily conferences with the civil authorities in Imphal, he stresses, are cordial and decisions are taken jointly.

Limelight

If the security forces are in the limelight, there are normal and abnormal reasons for it. Counter-insurgency operations were handed over to them when the Manipur authorities lost control of the situation. Even before the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was enforced, several Ministers of the Dorendra Singh Cabinet had resolved in his absence (Dorendra Singh was in Gauhati those days mediating on the Assam issue) that the Manipur valley, particularly Imphal, should be declared a disturbed area. The mandate for the security forces stems from the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958.

Counter-insurgency is a continuing education in the north-east: no two chapters are alike. Constantine says: "In Nagaland it began with rebellion with the people getting gradually disillusioned whereas in Manipur it started with everybody, except the dispossessed royalty and their hangers-on, rejoicing in integration with the Indian Union but later inching away, leading to the present convulsions." There is another factor. Take Namthilok. The suspected villages were cordoned off and searched. People were beaten mercilessly but the word in the army lexicon is "harassment".

Allegations of rape introduced a familiar sequence but that does not rule out an objective inquiry. Nor is it enough to produce statements by the alleged victims disowning molestation, countersigned by police and medical or public representatives. The other side of the picture is that security and morale demand exemplary punishment, a response deemed adequate to prevent recurrence or anatement of another Namthilok. One does not subscribe to the old British concept of a punitive expedition in which whole villages were burnt but it goes without saying that villagers found harbouring or helping the underground are asking for trouble the more so after a gruesome ambush.

PM REJECTS COCO-DIESEL PROGRAM

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Aug 82 p 11

[Text]

Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco is seeking new guidelines for the implementation of the coco-diesel program after Prime Minister Cesar Virata declined to endorse it to the President in the wake of the plunging price of coconut oil in the world market.

The new guidelines sought by Velasco is with reference to the program's implementing rules requiring an executive order which the Prime Minister did not endorse.

Virata's non-endorsement stemmed from the issue covering the proper reference price of coconut oil as the billing basis to the

petroleum industry under the coco-diesel program.

An energy ministry spokesman said yesterday that the Cabinet headed by Virata felt the initial price of 24 cents per pound requested by the United Coconut Oil Mills (UNICOM) is higher than the New York price which had been going down from 21 cents to about 19 cents per pound yesterday.

The spokesman explained that a lower reference price based on export parity will mean lower subsidy requirements from the government.

UNICOM has earlier suggested that the coconut oil price should

be at export parity less coconut levy computed on the basis of prevailing New York price and peso-to-dollar exchange rate.

It requested, however, that for the first 40,000 tons to be used this year, a minimum of 24 cents per pound be set which translates to an ex-mill price of P3.01 per liter.

With diesel price constant, the petroleum industry can only afford to pay no more than P2.82 per liter of coconut oil delivered, provided specific tax and special fund imposts applicable to diesel are not applied to coconut oil used as fuel.

Exemptions from the

levy, specific tax and special fund imposts for the coconut oil blended with diesel fuel plus a price support of P20.292 per liter of coconut oil will be necessary. Thus, the government has to subsidize P19.1 million annually for a program requiring 60,000 metric tons of coconut oil.

However, the Prime Minister was not receptive to the amount of subsidy in view of the coconut oil's prevailing market price quoted at New York.

UNICOM maintains that it cannot supply the coconut oil under today's export parity prices since it argues that it would be selling at a loss.

THAILAND

GOVERNMENT OIL FUND DEBT RISES TO 4 BILLION BAHT

BK250317 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Aug 82 p 17

[Text] The government's oil stabilisation fund has soared to more than 4,000 million baht in the red, with the petroleum authority of Thailand (PTT) as its major creditor.

These figures are part of a "confidential" report on the oil stabilisation fund to be submitted to the National Petroleum Policy Committee, chaired by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, next Monday.

The report shows that the fund's total accrued payable amount is about 4,600 million baht, while the combined accrued receivable is about 600 million baht, resulting in a deficit of about 4,000 million baht.

Of the 4,600 million baht, the fund owes about 3,000 million baht to the PTT and another 800 million baht to oil companies.

It is expected that 214 million baht of income will go into the fund this month.

The fund was established as a buffer against the impact of shifting world oil prices on the domestic retail market.

The fund has been in the red since it was introduced years ago.

The government uses the fund to subsidise a variety of oil products: 1.30 baht per litre of kerosene, 0.38 baht per litre of high speed diesel oil, 0.15 baht per litre of bunker oil and 1.50 baht per kg of LPG [liquid petroleum gas].

Only two oil products--regular and premium gasoline--provide revenue for the fund. A litre of regular benzine earns the fund 1.20 baht, and a litre of premium gasoline 1.89 baht. Diesel oil and LPG are the two main products that upset the fund, with subsidised LPG being used in motor cars.

The fund has shown little sign of recovery, although the government last December increased the price of premium gasoline from 11.90 to 13.45 baht a litre. This increase has boosted the fuel's contribution to the fund from 0.89 baht a litre to 1.89 baht.

CSO: 4270/306

THAILAND

USSR AGREES TO BARTER FERTILIZER FOR CORN

BK300227 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Jul 82 p 21

[Text] The Soviet Union has entered into a contract worth some 1,400 million baht to barter its fertilisers for some 500,000 tons of Thai maize. The agreement was reached between the Russian authorities and the Metro Group, a local fertiliser-marketing firm, it was learned yesterday.

News of the agreement immediately resulted in the domestic price of maize increasing, for the first time in three weeks, to 154-155 baht a picul (60 kgs) yesterday from Wednesday's 151-152 baht.

According to reports, some 300,000 tons of maize will be shipped to the Soviet Union by the Metro Group and the remaining 200,000 tons by the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry's marketing organisation for farmers.

All the maize is scheduled to be delivered between September and December this year, and reports say some 5,000 tons are now being transported into Bangkok, the country's export outlet, every day.

The Thai product has been priced at U.S.\$122 per ton FOB Bangkok.

The deal will possibly make the Soviet Union the largest buyer of Thai maize this year, moving up from the third rank in 1981 when it purchased 270,000 tons.

Malaysia was the largest buyer of Thai maize last year, with some 500,000 tons, while Singapore came second, with some 470,000 tons.

However, despite the deal and other efforts being made to raise the price of maize, informed sources say maize farmers are unlikely to be happy with the price for the 1982-83 crop, the harvesting of which began three weeks ago.

It is believed that the world market price for maize this year will not be as high as what it was in 1981 as the United States, the world's largest producer of maize, is reportedly turning out a bumper crop.

Furthermore, the freight rates for maize from U.S. ports to Japan and Taiwan, the two major maize-importing countries, have been reduced to U.S.\$15-16 a ton, the sources noted.

They recommended that the government take action to boost maize exports to the Middle East which is a potentially good market for the Thai product.

Last year Iran bought 250,000 tons of maize, while Iraq and Saudi Arabia bought 210,000 tons each.

It was also learned that Dr Somphop Susangkarn, president of the Board of Trade [BOT] will lead a delegation to Japan next month to negotiate maize sales with representatives of the Japan Feed Trade Association.

From there, the team will proceed to Taipei to negotiate a similar deal with the Taiwanese authorities.

BOT has set a target to sell Japan and Taiwan 400,000 and 300,000 tons of maize from the new crop respectively.

CSO: 4220/306

THAILAND

'POST' EDITOR COMMENTS ON THACH VISIT

BK020303 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Aug 82 p 5

[By the Chongkhadikit]

[Text] When the ASEAN foreign ministers meet in Bangkok on Saturday [7 August] they have to decide not to drive Vietnam into a corner but to leave a way out--which could eventually lead to friendly cooperation between the non-communist and the communist states of Southeast Asia to keep out foreign domination.

This is the attitude of Thais in responsible positions following the recent visit by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to this so-called "front-line state."

While Thach, in his talks in Thailand as well as in Singapore and Malaysia, our ASEAN allies, kept harping upon the "Chinese threat," he was told in Bangkok in no uncertain terms of the ASEAN fear of the "Soviet threat"--which, he was reminded, had been brought into this region by Hanoi. In supporting the Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea, China is reacting to the Soviet threat.

ASEAN and the Indochina states can work together to rid our region of these threats. The fact that Thach is willing to have further discussions in Hanoi with Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and National Security Council [NCS] Secretary-General Prasong Sunsirir on peace, stability and regional problems as well as on bilateral issues shows that Vietnam can be receptive.

It is possible that Thach's conciliatory attitude--at least as far as Thailand and Malaysia are concerned--has been dictated by Vietnam's growing economic problems and concern over signs of Soviet expansionism with particular reference to Moscow's attempts to deal separately, rather than through Hanoi, with Laos and Kampuchea.

Thach's bravado about Vietnam having survived three years of suffering from international sanctions and about "keeping the door open" for the Soviets to use bases in Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay could have been motivated by oversensitivity on the reality of the problems.

The "sweetness and light" at the official meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been described by official observers as a tactic in an unchanged strategy. The strategy is to consolidate a Hanoi-dominated Indochina. Although there have been frequent denials from Hanoi of any plans to set up a federation of Indochina, Thach referred several times at his Bangkok press conference to "Indochina" as if it were an entity.

Thach tried to explain the Ho Chi Minh City proposals: partial withdrawal from Kampuchea, a safety zone along the Thai-Kampuchean border and an international conference on Southeast Asia.

He even expressed agreement with "total withdrawal" but added that it was conditional on the "legitimate interests of all parties." Thailand's concern is with the Vietnamese military presence in Kampuchea and Vietnam's concern is the "Chinese threat." Previously, he had mentioned only the "Chinese threat," but it comes up to the same strategy.

Since he raised the name of Pol Pot to try and prove that the recently formed coalition of Democratic Kampuchea (DK) was an "illusion," he was probably equating this organiser of mass murders of his own countrymen with the "Chinese threat."

Will Hanoi withdraw all its forces from Kampuchea if Pol Pot is not around--at least in Kampuchea--any more?

If, say, Democratic Kampuchea President Prince Norodom Sihanouk, suddenly wanted to deal with Vietnam (which he had aided in the past and with which he has since been disappointed for its lack of gratitude) and negotiate a settlement with Heng Samrin--which, from a study of the history of the mercurial prince, is not unthinkable--the problem of the Khmer Rouge armed force will remain. In fact, it could get worse, becoming like the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) disrupting Thai-Kampuchean border stability and ASEAN-Indochina cooperation with acts of sabotage, subversion and terrorism.

Perhaps, the ASEAN foreign ministers could try to convince their Vietnamese counterpart that the best way to eliminate Pol Pot from the scene--other than assassination or exile to China--is to let free and open general elections take place in Kampuchea under United Nations supervision. The people who have been abhorred by what Thach himself described as "genocide" are most unlikely to vote for Pol Pot and his gang.

If Vietnam is truly honest about its stated desire for neutrality in Kampuchea--which happens to be ASEAN's objective also--then Vietnam should withdraw its forces to allow the elections to take place. Air Chief Marshal Sitthi has given an assurance that if Heng Samrin, considered by ASEAN as a Vietnamese-installed puppet, is elected Thailand would accept him.

Thach would like neutrality not just for Kampuchea but for the rest of Southeast Asia as well. That is what ASEAN would like to see happen.

Marshal Sitthi has told me that China would also like a neutral Kampuchea. In this respect, it was interesting to hear Thach say that Vietnam would not "gang up" with ASEAN or any other countries against China because "China is a friend." This may appear contradictory to the "Chinese threat" statement but it shows that Vietnam is differentiating the "Chinese threat" in Kampuchea from relations with China itself.

The ASEAN foreign ministers will have to make clear to the Vietnamese that while Hanoi is worried about the "Chinese threat," ASEAN is concerned at the "Soviet threat," which has been brought into this region by Vietnam. In fact, it is believed that China supports the Khmer Rouge in reaction to the Soviet presence in Vietnam. It would be advantageous to all countries to Southeast Asia to keep out foreign military and political domination and influence.

Thach may not have taken anything home in his bag, and the ASEAN countries may not have obtained any advantage out of his tour, but the dialogue has opened up options not previously considered likely. For one thing, we can talk more and this may lead to important changes in strategy on both sides--if both are sincere about peace and stability in the region.

Already, Thach who had previously refused to discuss the "Kampuchean problem" has discussed it with ACM Sitthi and Sqn-Ldr Prasong. This could mean that he is no longer adamant about the "irreversibility" of the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

The fact that Prasong, who had previously turned down Thach's request to meet him, agreed to see him shows that the NSC--and Thailand--is flexible. Thach wanted to see Prasong possibly because the Vietnamese grapevine had informed him of the NSC chief's importance in policymaking with regard to national security and he has spoken up on Kampuchea in a manner which Thach might have found interesting to explore.

At the same time, because of Prasong's tough stance on principles concerning the Indochina states, he wanted to make a personal assessment of the official. The motive may have been to "know thy enemy." Each probably found underneath the other's affable, urbane appearance, a man of steel. Unlike the diplomatic meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they reportedly got down to brass tacks.

Thach expressed willingness to negotiate further on refugees, both old and new, and on the repatriation of Kampuchians. When they parted, Thach said he would like to be friends with Prasong and Prasong replied that friends should help each other solve mutual problems. He invited Prasong to Hanoi for further talks and Prasong told him he had to ask the prime minister's permission.

CSO: 4220/306

THAILAND

MALAYSIAN GROUP CALLS ON THAI MUSLIM FOR FUNDS

BK120326 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 12 Aug 82 p 6

[Text] Narathiwat--A southern separatist movement has called on Thai Muslim people living inside Malaysia to support its subversive activities through financial contribution, a senior provincial official said.

Maj Chob Mongkolrat, the deputy director of the communist prevention and suppression office here, quoted an intelligence report as saying that the call was made by separatist leader in Kelantan District of Malaysia late last month.

He did not name the secessionist movement but identified the leader as Abdul Azis Awaeraibai who called a meeting of Thai Muslim people in Kua Musae village, Tambon Kua Musae in the Malaysian state.

He told the NATION that the secessionist leader was a former native of Buro village, Tambon Lojud of Waeng District here.

He was quoted as telling the people at the meeting that the fund raised from their contribution will be used to buy food supplies for the movement's members when they sneak into Thailand to carry out their subversive activities.

Maj Chob said the movement leader personally collected contribution from the villages whenever the separatists were ready to initiate an operation inside Thailand.

It was not known what had been the response of the villagers to the terrorists' appeal. Maj Chob said he had already passed on the intelligence report to all the government agencies concerned.

All of the various secessionist movements which seek to secede the four southernmost provinces of Thailand have suffered a serious setback following a series of successful military drive by the Fourth Army Region.

THAILAND

HAN ON MUSLIM SEPARATIST BASES IN MALAYSIA

BK310648 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 31 Jul 82 p 4

[Text] Narathiwat--Fourth Army Region Commander Lt Gen Han Linanon yesterday called on Malaysia to show "sincerity" in its cooperation with Thailand to crack down on all the insurgency movements on both sides of the border.

In an interview with the NATION, Lt Gen Han said Thailand had proven its sincerity by launching an all-out offensive against the strongholds of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) on Thai soil.

He said Thailand had fulfilled its pledge to repress all the insurgency movements on the Thai territory, including those which are using Thai territory as the springboard to undermine the stability of the neighbouring country.

"As a result of our all-out offensive, we have successfully destroyed all the major strongholds of CPM which aims to overthrow the Malaysian Government," he said.

He said he hoped the Malaysians would prove their sincerity in the same way.

Lt Gen Han quoted intelligence reports as showing that several southern Muslim separatist movements are taking refuge in Malaysia and even using the Malaysian territory as their bases to support their clandestine operations in Thailand.

Some of the secessionist movements which are trying to establish a buffer state between Thailand and Malaysia have been receiving financial support from some Muslim countries in the Middle East, he said.

Malaysian chairman of the Regional Border Committee Maj Gen Hashim is scheduled to visit Thailand tomorrow for talks with Thai leaders and to get first-hand information about the insurgency situation in southern Thailand, according to Lt Gen Han.

He added that the Malaysian chairman will also visit the biggest stronghold of CPM which was seized during the recent military offensive in Na Thawi District of Songkhla. The Fourth Army Region used about 10 battalions of combined troops in the major offensive which was launched early this month against CPM guerrillas operating along the 576-km long border.

CSO: 4220/307

COUNTRY TO SET UP FORCE OF RESERVISTS

BK210932 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Aug 82 p 3

[By Sonchai Nokeplub]

[Text] A national committee has been set up to form a force of reservists to strengthen the country's defences.

The project, to coincide with the fifth five-year development plan, would not only make use of the skills of discharged soldiers but would also help to improve the living conditions of the reservists through various economic and agricultural training schemes.

Col Wichai Hongsakun, chief of staff of the First Army Region's 11th Division, told the BANGKOK POST yesterday that the setting up of the committee had been approved recently by the cabinet after years of planning.

The committee is to be chaired by the Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Prayut Charumani and will have four sub-committees for political, economic, psychological and military affairs, Col Wichai said.

Sqn-Ldr Prasong Sunsiri, secretary-general of the National Security Council, has been named chairman of the political sub-committee; Dr Thaloeng Thamrong-nawasawat, under-secretary of state for agriculture and cooperatives, will be chairman of the economic sub-committee; Dr Bunson Martin, under-secretary of state for education, will be chairman of the psychological sub-committee; and Gen Sak Bunthrakun, deputy army commander-in-chief; will be chairman of military sub-committee.

Officials from the various ministries and other governmental organisations have been appointed members of the committee, which will first of all organise voluntary reservists into a group called the "reserved military for national security."

The commanding general of each of the four army regions has been named to head the project in his area, Col Wichai said.

The reservists will be given training in politics, and economic and psychological tactics. They will also attend courses to sharpen their skills in their chosen activities following their discharge from the military to help improve their standards of living, Col Wichai said.

The reservists and their relatives will be given the chance to form into co-operative groupings, with financial assistance and credit from the Bank of Agriculture and Cooperatives which will also be a member of the national committee, he said.

Most of the discharged soldiers involved are former conscripts who have served two years in the armed forces, and most of them are poor, Col Wichai said.

Besides getting a chance to better their lot, the reservists would be of great help to the country in times of emergency, he said.

He said the reservists were familiar with military weapons and were used to military discipline, so they would need little training when called into action.

In the first army region alone, there are about 500,000 reservists, Col Wichai said.

Provincial and district working groups have been set up under the chairmanship of governors and district officers to help organise the project, he said.

Work has already started in several provinces and the response from potential reservists has been good, Col Wichai said.

CSO: 4220/306

MOULINAKA LEADERS SAY SRV TROOPS STEP UP ACTIONS

BK250253 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 25 Aug 82 pp 1, 2

[By Jacques Bekaert]

[Text] Western Kampuchea--Vietnamese troops have stepped up their military actions against the Khmer resistance force despite the arrival of the rainy season here, Moulinaka's President [title as published] Col Nhem Sophon told the NATION during an exclusive interview here over the weekend.

The interview took place in one of the string of villages controlled by this Sihanoukist faction, some ten kilometres inside Kampuchea.

During the interview, Vietnamese shells landed only a few hundred metres from the camp. No one was hurt, however.

"It has been like this almost every day in the past two to three weeks," Col Nhem Sophon said, as the interview resumed following a brief interruption by the Vietnamese shelling.

This correspondent accompanied one of the Moulinaka's patrol units from the main base to the Sihanoukist frontline of defence to observe the resistance force's actions against the Vietnamese.

"Vietnamese troops are about four to five kilometres from here. Once in a while, we encounter one of their patrols. So far, since the founding of our movement in August, 1979, we have lost more than 200 men in battles with Vietnamese troops," he said.

Col Nhem Sophon said that more than 1,000 of his men had died of malaria.

Moulinaka's political director, Chak Sarik, a former director of protocol under Prince Norodom Sihanouk, told the NATION that the movement was in bad need of food and medical supplies.

Chak Sarik has spent most of his time teaching guerrilla and political warfare to the Moulinaka fighters.

"We must be ready for the new dry season. If we have enough food, we could infiltrate behind the enemy line; we could go deeper inside the country and contact villagers. But we need rice to take with us to survive and to offer to the villagers who have very little themselves. Rice has become a kind of weapon, a political weapon, as important as guns," Nhem Sophon added.

At the time of the interview, Nhem Sophon said he had not met the alleged Khmer Rouge defectors who were said to have fled to join the Sihanoukists.

"I heard there are about 400 of them, including about 100 soldiers. I was not surprised by their defections. In fact, about two years ago, when we were really desperate, I urged some of our people to join the Khmer Rouge so that they would have something to eat to survive. These defectors could be our own people who now want to return to us," Nhem Sophon said.

The Moulinaka president said he had several "big schemes" to accomplish to pursue their anti-Vietnamese goals.

"We now have a good intelligence-gathering system to detect what's happening inside the country. There is a lot we could do in the future. But we have to keep it confidential," he said.

He claimed that his men could get as close as two kilometres from Poi Pet.

Nhem Sophon produced some of the new weapons the Sihanoukists received last March from China.

He also produced a rifle similar to the famous AK-47, captured from Vietnamese soldiers. "The only different characteristic of this new Vietnamese rifle is that several parts are made of plastic," Nhem Sophon explained.

He claimed that Moulinaka's force now stands at 1,600 strong with a few thousand more who have undergone military training.

"These people are ready to go out and fight when we receive more weapons," he said.

Moulinaka is one of the three groups of the national Sihanoukist army under the general command of former Khmer Prime Minister In Tam.

CSO: 4220/308

THAILAND

POLICE WARN OF REMOVAL OF BCP, SUA BY FORCE

BK070157 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Aug 82 pp 1, 20

[Text] Border Patrol Police [BPP] have warned guerrillas from two warring Burmese factions to leave Thailand or be forcibly swept out.

The Shan United Army [SUA] and the Burmese Communist Party [BCP] were given until yesterday afternoon to evacuate their armed supporters from Thailand.

Failure to meet the deadline, said police, would result in a harsher suppression campaign against the two forces than that taken against the SUA at Ban Hin Tael (now Ban Thoet Thai) last February.

The ultimatum followed meetings on Thursday between the BPP, led by Pol Col Chamrat Chitcharoenrat, and representatives of the two forces at Ban Huai Sala School in Chiang Rai's Mae Ai District. Thai officials told the two guerrilla armies to get their troops out of Thailand and to limit their fighting, which began last month, to Burmese territory.

An informed source also disclosed that Thai authorities promised to release three of the four Burmese communists who were captured on Wednesday in Mae Ai District and to return their weapons provided that the BCP immediately withdraw its troops. One of the captured BCP men is reported to be in a serious condition in Fang District hospital.

Before the meetings on Thursday, Thai authorities received a letter from BCP guerrillas threatening to burn down two Thai villages in Mae Ai District if their four comrades were not released.

High-ranking police officers met representatives of the Shans 30 minutes after meeting BCP leaders.

Police said that the Shans burned down five Lahu villages at Tambon Tha Ton in Mae Ai District on Wednesday and Thursday, leaving 500 people homeless.

According to police, the attacks occurred because the Lahu hilltribes had been aiding the Burmese communists in their struggle against the Shans.

More than 100 people have been killed and more than 70 wounded since the two guerrillas armies began fighting last month. Both sides have sought treatment for their wounded men at Fang District hospital.

As a result of the clashes, Thai authorities have prohibited tourists from crossing the Ban Tha Ton bridge across the Kok River and have also closed three schools in Mae Ai District.

CSO: 4220/306

THAILAND

HAN ON CRUSHING OF CPM 'LIBERATION ARMY'

BK040231 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Aug 82 p 5

[Text] Fourth Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Han Linanon said yesterday that the Communist Party of Malaysia (CPM) had been crushed and its so-called "Liberation Army" reduced to small splinter groups which were no longer capable of threatening the security of either Thailand or Malaysia.

Lt-Gen Han was speaking after meeting with Malaysian Second Army Commander and chairman of the Regional Border Committee Maj-Gen Datuk Hasim Bin Mohamad Ali at the Regional Border Committee Office (RBCO) in Songkhla.

The meeting, attended by RBCO Chief Col Wira Malaiwong reiterates the achievement of the Thai forces in seizing three major CPM camps recently.

Preparations were also made for the 27th meeting of the Thai-Malaysian General Border Committee in Kuala Lumpur on August 26.

Describing the capture of the three bases as a great victory for Thai forces, spearheaded by the Fourth Army, Lt-Gen Han said Malaysia had congratulated Thailand on its success and expressed relief that the CPM Liberation Army had been smashed.

The so-called Liberation Army was reduced to small guerrilla groups that were too weak to affect the security of Malaysia and Thailand, he said.

He said most guerrillas had dispersed and mingled with civilian sympathisers in Thailand or Malaysia.

It was necessary for Thailand and Malaysia to cooperate and coordinate in searching and hunting down CPM remnants in the common border area.

Asked about the loss of the CPM and the remaining camps in Thailand, Lt-Gen Han said that while only four or five bodies were found during the operation which began last month, the CPM lost its three biggest camps.

"What they have left are only small, temporary camps," he said.

Asked about the possibility of developing the captured camps into self-defence and development villages similar to captured Communist Party of Thailand camps in the south, Lt-Gen Han said the army had no intention of doing so as the bases were in dangerous zones.

Lt-Gen Han also strongly denied reports quoting him as saying that the continued presence of Malaysian troops at the border was responsible for the tension there, and predicting the withdrawal of Malaysian troops.

"The news reports affected the good relations and caused misunderstanding between the two countries," he said.

He said that when the CPM was crushed and peace was restored, the war atmosphere had diminished and there was no need for so many troops to be stationed at the border.

However, he said it was up to Malaysia to decide if it wanted to station troops along the border.

CSC: 4220/306

INSURGENTS RAID CONSTRUCTION CAMP, VILLAGES

BK190241 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 18 Aug 82 p 1

[text] Phatthalung--About 150 heavily-armed insurgents yesterday morning raided a camp of construction workers and two villages. A Tambon doctor was shot dead in the presence of villagers after the insurgents overran one of the two villages.

A defence volunteer was critically wounded and four others captured while the insurgents rampaged through the two villages in Si Banphot subdistrict here. The four captives were later released in the afternoon.

The guerrillas, armed with M-16 rifles and M-79 grenade launchers, declared at the seized camp in Si Banphot subdistrict that they would punish the workers who assisted the military build a road linking Khao Bu and Tambon Tapaen.

They delivered the threat to the gathering of about 200 construction workers and the members of their families at the camp in Si Banphot subdistrict.

Sarasak Pinmani, manager of the Siam Civil Engineering Company which undertook the construction work, was also among the people gathered at gun-point.

About 90 of the communist insurgents later stormed Thayung village in Tambon Tapaen. The village was seized after about 10 defence volunteers who had put up a resistance retreated from the village.

Yuk Rattana, the Tambon doctor was killed by the communist insurgents who declared to about 45 families of villagers that those who served as the government's informants would face death.

About 40 insurgents of the group later laid siege to Tai Pradu village, about five kms from Thayung village, and clashed with about 30 defence volunteers.

The attackers seized the village after about 15 minutes of fighting. A defence volunteer was critically wounded during the fighting and four others captured.

The communist insurgents later gathered at the camp of the construction company and retreated to their stronghold on Banthat Mountain range in Khuan Khanun District here.

Deputy Governor Thavat Phothisunthon said that the raids were to capture weapons from the defence volunteers who provide protection to the construction workers and to kill the spies of the government.

CSO: 4220/308

KHMER REFUGEES WANT TO RETURN TO SIHANOUK FOLD

BK250429 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] Eighteen-year-old Reth Ngon, like many of his fellow refugees at the Khao I-Dang holding centre who heard Prince Norodom Sihanouk's call to return home, will be going back to Kampuchea.

He does not know what awaits him and his family of eight when they go back to join Sihanouk's forces. All he knows now is that he wants to go home.

"So many people are going home, so we want to go home too. I don't know what will happen. It's up to them (Royalist leaders in Kampuchea)," he said.

Before Sihanouk came to speak at Khao I-Dang Camp last month, no one at the camp would have believed that the refugees would volunteer, en masse, to go home.

The only place most of the refugees in this Ta Phraya District camp wanted to go, before Sihanouk's dramatised "return" to his people, was a third country to resettle.

But they have realised that their chances of being accepted by a third country are very slim. And their aimless existence as refugees with nothing to do and nowhere to go, have led them to reach for the only acceptable alternative that came their way--Norodom Sihanouk.

Thus the prince's impassioned call for his "sons and daughters" to return and help regain and rebuild the motherland, gave the refugees a new hope in life.

Most of the 44,196 Khmer refugees were peasants who still regard their monarch with a certain degree of awe and reverence.

The educated Khmers, who are inclined to have doubts about Sihanouk, have long been resettled in third countries.

Indeed most of the 13,000 refugees who have signed up to join the Sihanouk faction of the recently former coalition government, profess a faith that Sihanouk is the man who can reclaim their country from the Vietnamese without handing it back to the much hated Pol Pot regime.

One refugee leader at Khao I-Dang, 62-year-old Som Reth, explained: "Before, we only had leaders that we don't trust, but now we have a coalition under Prince Sihanouk, so now we want to go back."

A former farmer, 34-year-old Tat Vang, who escaped to Thailand with his wife and two children in 1979, has the same faith in Sihanouk.

"We should be able to take back our country," he said optimistically "and I'll do anything Prince Sihanouk tells me. I can just be part of the population or I can be a fighter, whatever he tells me."

About 3,000 Khmer refugees have already left Khao I-Dang for the royalist stronghold of Sihanouk Borei (town), formerly O Samach, opposite Chong Chom in Surin Province.

But the flow has been stopped because the Sihanoukist headquarters is not yet ready to receive such an unexpectedly large influx of people. And some reported clashes with the Vietnamese have shown the village's military leaders that the sudden presence of a large body of untrained civilians in their base could prove quite stifling.

However, both the refugees themselves and Khao I-Dang officials say that as much as half of the camp's population now wants to join the Sihanouk faction, and that more will probably come forward to join the homeward-bound exodus.

Now that the refugees are reasonably safe and well-fed, and are no longer the starving skeletons that first crossed into Thailand after the 1979 Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea, they are beginning to get homesick.

"It's comfortable staying in Thailand, but our hearts are not comfortable. We miss our country, we miss our homes and we miss our relatives," Tat lamented.

But not all who have signed up for repatriation really want to return, because so many want to go back, some simply have to follow the momentum.

Eighteen-year-old Hong Sareth does not want to go back. Both his parents died of starvation in Kampuchea during the Pol Pot era.

But Hong's elder and only brother wants to go back, "so I must go back too. Everything depends on my brother and whatever happens is up to the stars," he said with an uncertain laugh.

Back across the border the Kampucheans have an opportunity to freely make a living. Trade, particularly monetary trade, is forbidden in Khao I-Dang.

Thus, the large majority of refugees has nothing to do if they do not enroll in various occupational courses offered by aid agencies in the camp, or work for one of the agencies.

Out of the 44,000 Kymers at the camp, only about 4,000 work for some agencies, receiving pay in kinds.

Son, the Khmer leader, summed up the refugees' feeling: "Out there we can be free to do anything, but in here we have to live under many rules. Out there we can make a living. We can fish and sell it to the Thais, and then use the money to buy goods in Thailand and go back to sell it to our own people."

For whatever reasons, be it national aspirations, human needs, or self-interests, the refugees have grabbed a new hope in their uncertain future.

CSO: 4220/307

THAILAND

WARRANTS ISSUED FOR 1,600 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

BK180315 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 18 Aug 82 p 6

[Text] Nakhon Phanom--The number of Vietnamese refugees missing from this northeastern province, registered at about 800 persons in May, has doubled to 1,600 this month and warrants for the arrest of them have been issued, a senior police officer said here yesterday.

Deputy chief of the Vietnamese refugees office here, Pol Lt Col Seri Temiyawet, said these refugees sneaked out of the province to work elsewhere without prior permissions from the provincial authorities.

"When we found out on May 31 that about 800 Vietnamese refugees disappeared from the province, we gave them a chance to return and report themselves to the authorities. Our latest survey, however, found that the number of those leaving the province without legal permission doubled to 1,600 persons," he said.

Pol Lt Col Seri said police were assigned from Nakhon Phanom to search for the fugitive refugees and 28 of them were arrested when they were found working in Bangkok and outlying Nonthaburi Province.

Most of them worked as welders, tailors and watch repairers.

Twenty-five of them were fined 500 baht each before they were sent back to this northeastern province while three others who committed the offence twice were sent to Lat Bua Khao refugee centre in Si Kheu District of neighbouring Nakhon Ratchasima, he said.

The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, requested people to help the government in keeping surveillance for Vietnamese refugees in Thailand.

Interior Minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot said: "We have to be more careful with the entry of Vietnamese into our country." Nakhon Phanom is among the nine provinces where about 40,000-50,000 Vietnamese refugees of the Dien Bien Phu era are confined. There are about 30,000 Vietnamese refugees in Nakhon Phanom alone.

CSO: 4220/308

THAILAND

POLICE ARREST MEMBER OF ANANDA MARGA IN BANGKOK

BK081108 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] An Indian member of the Ananda Marga religious sect was arrested in Bangkok on Friday with a handgun, 95 rounds of ammunition and a coil of electric wire, crime suppression division police reported yesterday.

Police identified the Ananda Marga disciple as Anil Sharan, 29, from India. They said he had visited Thailand a few times and last arrived in Bangkok in June.

Anil told the POST from his CSD cell that he bought the gun and ammunition to take them to India to protect sect members from harassment and attacks by communist elements.

"I am not a thief or a robber. I came here on a mission for humanity," Sharan said.

CSD police said they also found in Sharan's rented room in the Thewes area two human skulls, two knives and a large amount of printed material about the sect.

Sharan said that the skulls and the two knives were used for a ritual every full moon.

A police source said that Deputy Police Chief Narong Mahanon ordered the CSD police on alert several days ago following a report that Ananda Marga members were planning to stage terrorist acts--possibly a plane hijacking--or acquire arms, in Bangkok.

On Friday afternoon, a CSD unit saw Sharan go to the Prinya building in the Phuenchit area, reportedly to buy a gun, police said. They then shadowed him to a rented house in Soi Chuai Puang, Bangkok District, where an Italian girl, also a member of the Ananda Marga sect, was staying.

The policemen then ordered Sharan to come out and searched the house, where they allegedly found a .38 calibre revolver and 95 cartridges among other items.

Police said the Italian girl, whom they identified as Miss Maria Grazia Minotto, 24, was not at home during the raid. They said they were still looking for her and would like to question her.

Police said that before the arrest, Sharan had phoned an American whose Indian name is Dada Peenak Pani in Ipoh, Malaysia. Dada, whom police suspect to be leader of a fanatical wing of the sect and also a saboteur, reportedly told Sharan that he would be coming to Bangkok with 230,000 baht for him.

Police said Sharan had a 20,000 baht bank account in the Bangkok Bank's Khlongchan branch and had about 20,000 baht in several currencies in his possession at the time of his arrest.

He is being held on a charge of illegally possessing firearms.

The sect--which has been accused of terrorist acts in a number of countries--first attracted attention in Thailand when three members--an American woman, a British girl and an Australian man--were arrested in a Bangkok hotel with 1.25 kilogrammes of high explosives and bomb-making instruments in February 1978.

They were sentenced to six months imprisonment by the Bangkok Military Court after they pleaded guilty to the illegal possession of firearms.

CSO: 4220/306

THAILAND

BRIEFS

HILLTRIBE GROUP SURRENDERS--More than 7,400 left-wing Mong hilltribes people have laid down weapons and surrendered to the joint military-police-civil 33 force. The group of 1,184 Mong families had been supporting communist guerrillas on Hin Long Kla Mountain in a long fight against the government. Led by representatives of the joint force, the Mong marched down the mountain on Sunday to a new settlement provided by the government at Ban Tabbuoeck, Lom Kao District of Phetchabun. The military has helped in building houses in the new settlement. More Mong are expected to surrender and join the government's resettlement programme. [Text] [BK240805 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Aug 82 p 3]

BORDER POLICE ARREST WA 'REBELS'--Chiang Mai Border Patrol Police (BPP) units arrested another thirteen left-wing Wa hilltribesmen in Mae Ai District on Saturday afternoon. BPP sources said the hilltribesmen were members of the 300-strong Burmese Communist Party guerrilla group who fled across the border into Thailand after it was routed in a battle with the Shan United Army last month. The sources said the arrests, made at Ban Pong Hai, brought to 23 the number of Wa guerrillas held by BPP units along the Thai-Burmese border. Seized from the guerrillas were six M-16 rifles, some pistols, two M-79 grenade launchers, more than 1,500 rounds of ammunition and a radio transmitter. All were taken for interrogation at Mae Ai District police station, the sources said. A district-level border committee met yesterday to consider legal action against the guerrillas, they added. [Text] [BK160209 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 82 p 5]

MORE WA GUERRILLAS ARRESTED--Chiang Mai--Ten heavily-armed leftist Wa hilltribesmen were arrested in Mae Ai District yesterday morning as Border Patrol Police (BPP) prepared to flush out hundreds of others refusing to leave Thai territory. The arrest was made by BPP unit near Ban Huai Ton Yang and Doi Laep where about 500 Wa guerrilla members of the Burmese Communist Party (BCP) have sought refuge after losing a battle against Shan United Army (SUA) rebels on Doi Lang. The group was ordered to leave Thai soil by August 10, but has so far shown no intention of crossing back into Burma. The weapon being carried by the Wa hilltribes arrested yesterday included an M-60 light machine-gun, six Ak-47 rifles, handgrenades and a large amount of ammunition. They were taken to Mae Ai District police station where they were charged with having entered Thailand illegally and being in possession of dangerous war

weapons. The arrest comes in the wake of mounting tensions along the Thailand's northernmost border districts of Mae Ai and Fang where the SUA and BCP have reportedly sent reinforcements to fight for control of the Doi Lang highlands. The Royal Thai Air Force early yesterday morning sent up two OV-10 planes to observe the situation along the border. Meanwhile, two BPP platoons moved in to Ban Huai Ton Yang and Doi Laem and built a temporary camp and helicopter landing pad in preparation to drive the BCP from the area. There were no reports of fighting in the area yesterday. [Text] [BK150813 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Aug 82 p 3]

NEW SRV ENVOY EXPECTED--Vietnam's new ambassador to Thailand will be career diplomat Nguyen Khao Ce [name as published], a expert in European and American affairs, diplomatic sources said yesterday. Ce is expected to arrive in Thailand in about a month, following the departure for home of the current envoy, Hoang Bao Son. Son has served three years in Thailand, the normal Vietnamese diplomatic term. The new ambassador will be coming to Bangkok from his current position as head of the Second European Division of the Foreign Ministry in Hanoi. The section deals with Western European countries. He had served previously as head of the North American desk at the Foreign Ministry, and prior to that was part of Hanoi's negotiating team at the Paris peace talks. Outgoing Ambassador Son is expected to leave Thailand in about four weeks, diplomats said. [Text] [BK010136 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Jul 82 p 24]

JAN-JUN RICE EXPORTS--The export price of Thai rice during the first half of this year was over 2,000 baht or 23.54 percent lower than the price of the rice shipped out during January-June 1981, the Board of Trade [BOT] said in its monthly rice report. The report, compiled by Mr Sman Ophatwong, chairman of the BOT's rice committee, noted that Thailand shipped out a total of 1,016,230.45 tons of rice worth 12,524.1 million baht in the first six months of this year. This was an increase of 82,339.36 tons in volume but a decrease of 3,145.5 million baht in earnings from the rice exports made during the same period of 1981. The average export price of Thai rice this year was 6,535.80 baht a ton, down from 8,549.10 baht in the first half of 1981. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Jul 82 p 17 BK]

JAN-MAR OIL IMPORTS--Though Thailand's oil imports during the first quarter of this year dropped by 11.02 percent in quantity, the import bill increased by 1.77 percent from what it was in the same quarter of 1981. According to the Board of Trade statistics, Thailand imported 1,761.46 million litres of crude oil worth 9,293.5 million baht during January-March 1982, compared to 1,979.57 million litres worth 1,131.6 million baht during the like period of 1981. It also imported 321.97 million litres of semi-refined oil worth 1,618.4 million baht, up 5.79 percent in volume and 23.69 percent in value over the corresponding period last year. Imports of refined oil products during the January-March period were 548.87 million litres worth 3,219.1 million baht, a sharp fall of 42.12 percent in volume and 37.5 percent in value [as published] from the imports of 948.30 million litres worth 5,150.9 million baht during the same period of 1981. Imports of kerosene and fuel oil dropped sharply by 95.84 percent and 45.32 percent respectively. [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Jul 82 p 17 BK]

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MILITARY TALKS WITH U.S.--The Thai supreme commander revealed that the U.S. Government has agreed to supply Thailand a costly but devastating long-range antiship missile known as Harpoon to boost defense capability of the Thai armed forces. He said the United States agreed to the sale of Harpoon after it was assured of Thailand's ability to handle the highly sophisticated missile. The supreme commander already left for the United States with a delegation of high-ranking military officials for a 7-day visit at the invitation of the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is expected to negotiate with U.S. authorities over the sale of Harpoon, a deadly missile which can be launched from aircraft and surface vessels. While in the United States, the Thai military officers will also discuss with senior U.S. officials over military assistance to Thailand. [Excerpt] [BK301410 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 30 Jul 82]

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS--The Interior Ministry has set up a new body to directly handle issuance of identity cards and control occupations of illegal immigrants living in 10 provinces along the Thai-Burmese border, a senior official said yesterday. Deputy Undersecretary of State for Interior Loet Hongphakdi said there are about 50,000 of these illegal immigrants. About 30,000 of them are Burmese refugees, 10,000 Haw Chinese and 10,000 Chinese who were former members of the Kuomintang Nationalist Army. He said, the illegal immigrants have been residing in Thailand for a long time and were all registered. The body, which was set up during a meeting of an ad hoc committee dealing with illegal immigrants, will coordinate its work with a joint command centre for the 10 provinces on the Thai-Burmese border. The joint command headed by Supreme Commander Gen Saiyut Koetphon is staffed with 62 officials involved in the refugee affairs on the part of the Interior Ministry, according to the deputy interior undersecretary of state. The ad hoc committee yesterday turned down a proposal to set up a college for minority people on grounds that the hilltribesmen have already been provided with educational courses by the government. [Text] [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 14 Aug 82 p 3]

AID TO DROUGHT-HIT AREAS--More than 14 million rai of farmlands in the north and northeast are still facing a serious threat from the prevailing drought which has not eased off despite relief efforts and little rain over the past week. Agriculture Minister Chuan Liekphai said the situation in the north where at least 10 provinces were affected was more severe than any other part of the country. He told a press conference that about 7.3 million rai of farmlands in the north were affected by the aridity but actual damage could not be estimated. He said the Agriculture Ministry had so far mobilized 1,023 huge water pumps to all the affected areas and at least 788,000 rai of farmlands were expected to have been saved by the relief measures. In areas where no water resources were available artificial rain was made from the ministry's four rain-making centres in Lopburi, Nakhon Sawan, Lampang and Khon Kaen. The cabinet yesterday authorized the irrigation department to use 51 million baht of its budget to fund a relief programme to provide water to affected farmers. [Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 4 Aug 82 p 3 BK]

IMPROVED SITUATION IN SOUTH--Commander of the 4th Army Region Lt Gen Han Linanon says that the situation in southern Thailand has markedly improved following the implementation of the Tai Rom Yen [peaceful south] policy in the region. He says that robber and the crime rate have decreased after the

4th Army Region has carried out its 9th and 11th operations. The commander says that, as the result of the Tai Rom Yen operations, the communists have lost most of their major strongholds. Their forces have been dispersed into small units. Lt Gen Han says that the capture of the communist strongholds will help restore peace in the south because this will also lead to the end of the separatist movements in that region. [Text] [BK170353 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 17 Aug 82]

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PANAMA--Being desirous of promoting friendly relations and of intensifying cooperation in the political, economic, social and cultural fields between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Panama, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Republic of Panama have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level as from August 20th, 1982. The accreditation of the respective ambassadors will be mutually agreed between the two governments. [Text] [BK201227 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 82]

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